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TACO TOUR INFO
PAGE 36

APRIL 28 - MAY 4, 2011 LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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BY BOB BAINES

GRANITE VIEWS

Keep scholarships

New Hampshire already ranks 50th in the nation in state scholarship support to students. Not too surprisingly, New Hampshire students also carry the highest debt load in the nation.

You would think it couldn't really get much worse than this for our students. But guess what? If the budget making its way through the state legislature gets enacted, it's about to get a whole lot worse for New Hampshire's students.

The proposed budget cuts go far beyond the headline-grabbing stories of a 45-percent cut to the New Hampshire university system and 27-percent cut to the community colleges.

Both the governor and House are also proposing the elimination of virtually all state-funded scholarships to low-income students and shutting down the New Hampshire Postsecondary Education Commission. On top of that they want to eliminate scholarships that came from revenue generated by the UNIQUE College Savings Plan managed by Fidelity Investments. That money would go elsewhere. These scholarships come from fees paid solely by Fidelity investors — no state funds are involved.

Why these needed scholarship dollars, restricted for students with virtually no other funds to access college, have been targeted is a mystery to those of us in New Hampshire's public and private colleges and universities. In fact, the private colleges have secured a legal opinion that the taking of these UNIQUE funds is illegal and breaks a long-standing contract between the State and the colleges.

At a recent hearing, Senate Finance Committee members seemed to recognize the importance of maintaining resources to help students afford college. There appeared to be appreciation for the importance of maintaining a likely scaled-down state higher education agency for consumer protection and quality assurance. Let's hope the Senate will see the wisdom of restoring some of these funds as the budget process moves forward.

Back when I was a student at Keene State College, education majors went tuition-free if they stayed in New Hampshire following graduation to teach. This was a creative way for New Hampshire to ensure there would be enough teachers to meet the growing demand in our schools.

Today, these types of generous programs are not available, but the scholarships provided to about 11,000 students each year still make an important difference to the students who receive them. A $1,000 scholarship can mean paying for your textbooks, making a needed payment toward your tuition bill or covering your lab fees.

Everyone knows cuts in the state's budget need to be made, and public and private colleges and universities are willing to work toward sensible reductions. The New Hampshire Postsecondary Commission has already suggested a 50-percent reduction in state funding that will keep needed regulatory functions and still maintain a smaller but critically important state commitment to scholarship aid.

Without question, maintaining the current UNIQUE scholarship funds should be continued, especially with so many other higher education cuts likely to be enacted this session.

Bob Baines is president of Chester College of New England. He was mayor of Manchester from 2000 to 2006 and was previously principal of Manchester High School West.

12 Green thumbs

It's time to get your fingers in the soil and make your garden — or the tiny vegetable container on your urban patio — grow. We've dug up expert advice on how to prepare and plant greenery to meet your goals, whether you're aiming for landscape beauty, organic nutrition, outdoor exercise and fresh air, or all of the above. We've got the 411 on local clubs and classes, plus some helpful books to help cultivate your interest.

Also on the cover: Hit the town for some tacos! Find out about our **Hippo de Mayo** celebration coming up on Thursday, May 5, on page 36. And enjoy area **music and nightlife** — we've got listings of events all around the region starting with Michael Witthaus' interview with Roseanne Cash on page 58.

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Resilience Class

Monday, May 9 • 6:00 to 7:30 PM

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Gluten-Free Cooking with Grains

Wednesday, May 18 • 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Following a gluten-free diet can often be challenging. It is important to consume gluten-free whole grains for your continued good health. Join our registered dieticians and our chef as you sample and learn how to prepare a variety of gluten-free grains in several recipes. Fee: $10

Fit & Young for Life: Strength and Balance Training for Seniors

New Location in Hudson, 208 Robinson Rd.

FREE class! Tuesday, May 24 • 9:30 to 10:30 AM

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Allergy Testing the Easy Way

Did you know that 65% of all individuals that take prescription antihistamines do not have allergies? They are medicating inappropriately and may be failing to properly identify other possible chronic conditions. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), allergies are the leading cause of chronic disease in the United States. "Allergy-like symptoms, such as sneezing or coughing in the morning, sore throat, hoarse voice or congestion, are not always caused by allergies," states Doug Sargent, Operations/Outreach Manager for Laboratory Services at St. Joseph Hospital. "Most people who suffer from these kinds of symptoms have never been tested for allergies and simply assume they have allergies and start taking over-the-counter or prescription allergy medications only to find minimal or no relief." One reason many have never been tested is that the traditional skin prick testing can be uncomfortable and inconvenient. But, for many, a simple blood test called ImmunoCAP® can be done instead of the traditional skin prick test. The ImmunoCAP tests for dozens of allergies, offering you or your child as young as three months old an easier, more comfortable alternative, and you don't need to stop your current medications or wait in your doctor's office to be monitored for a reaction.

The ImmunoCAP test is a great screening test for many people who suffer from allergy-like symptoms and have never been tested. The results can help you and your healthcare provider make informed decisions about symptoms you are experiencing and can assist in identifying more complex conditions that may need to be referred to an allergist.

St. Joseph Hospital is the only hospital in the state to perform the ImmunoCAP test on-site and process your lab results in-house. For more information about allergy testing or to schedule a screening test at St. Joseph Hospital, contact your healthcare provider.

ask the doctor

Is it safe to exercise with asthma?

Eduardo Velez Calderon, MD, FCCP
Pulmonary Associates

Asthma is a condition that impairs the delivery of air to the lungs. In most patients, it is secondary to excessive sensitivity to environmental factors such as dust, pollen, chemicals or cold dry air. An excessive response of the immune system to such factors causes inflammation of the bronchial tubes that deliver air into the lungs. This inflammation narrows those tubes, causing episodes of shortness of breath with exertion, wheezing, cough and mucus production that can be severe. This inflammation is usually reversible, but some patients may develop irreversible changes in their bronchi with long-standing asthma. Asthma is managed with inhaled medications that reduce inflammation and open the affected bronchial tubes and are prescribed depending on the frequency and severity of the symptoms. Unfortunately, many patients stop performing activities such as regular exercise out of fear that it may trigger or worsen their asthma attacks.

One of the goals of asthma management is to help asthmatics maintain a normal, healthy lifestyle, which includes exercise and other physical activity. Working closely with your doctor to develop a fitness plan that works for you, timing your treatments to reduce attacks during and/or after exercise and avoiding triggers will help you achieve this goal.

If asthma symptoms stop you from participating fully in activities, speak to your asthma doctor. Minor changes in your asthma action plan may be all that is needed to provide asthma relief during exercise or activity.

What can I do to control my asthma when I exercise?

- Use your pre-exercise asthma inhalers before starting to exercise.
- Complete warm-up and cool-down exercises.
- If it's cold out, exercise indoors or wear a mask or scarf over your mouth and nose.
- Don't exercise when you have a viral infection, such as a cold.
- Exercise at a pace that is comfortable for you.
- If you have allergic asthma, do not exercise outdoors when pollen counts are high.

Asthma is not a reason to avoid exercise; maintaining an active lifestyle is important for both physical and mental health. Remember, always speak with your doctor before starting an exercise regimen.

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NEWS & NOTES

News in Brief

• **Lynch creates water commission:** Gov. John Lynch issued an executive order to create a water sustainability commission charged with developing a plan to ensure a clean, sustainable water supply for the state. "We have a responsibility to look to the future and act to protect the long-term sustainability of our environment and our economy. A major challenge facing our environment is ensuring clean, sustainable water supplies," Lynch said in a state press release. "Our beautiful lakes and rivers help provide countless recreation opportunities for our families and visitors, which helps to fuel our vibrant tourism industry. A clean water supply is also important for manufacturers and businesses across the state, making this issue important for our environment, our economy and the future success of our state." The state has nearly 17,000 miles of rivers and streams, 1,000 lakes, and 238 miles of ocean and estuarine coastline. Lynch will appoint 15 members to the commission from the public, state and local government, business and industry and environmental and conservation committees, the release said. He had appointed 13 members as of last week, including Tom Burack, commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Glen Normandeau, executive director of the state Fish and Game Department, and Michael Licata, vice president of the New Hampshire Business and Industry Association. The commission would provide an opportunity for public input during the study and would hold a public hearing in each of the five Executive Council districts.

• **Group gets started on fiber optic plan for NH:** Network New Hampshire Now, the organization overseeing efforts to build a high-speed fiber optic network to improve affordable broadband Internet access to currently underserved regions of the state, announced recently it has kicked off the first phase of the project by awarding a contract to begin construction. Nashua-based New Hampshire Optical Systems, which will invest $10 million of its own capital in the project, will begin construction soon on a 500-plus-mile high-speed network stretching from the seacoast to the southwest region, up to the northwest and the North Country and through the lakes region, according to an organization press release. The $34 million project, which will create one of the largest fiber optic networks in the country, is expected to improve economic development in communities with little or no access to affordable broadband now. The project is also expected to bring many construction and technology jobs to the state. The first phase is the largest part of the three-phase initiative. Network New Hampshire Now is a collaboration of state-based public and private partners focused on building and interconnecting high-speed broadband networks in all 10 counties. Network New Hampshire Now has received $44.5 million in economic stimulus money for the project, the release said. Visit networknhnow.org.

• **Home sales, prices less than a year ago:** Home sales activity and the median price in the state dipped in March, compared to March 2010, which leaves the first quarter unit sales practically even with the first quarter of last year, with the median price having dropped about 5 percent from the same period last year. According to the New Hampshire Association of Realtors, the Granite State sold 1,892 homes in the first quarter of this year, compared with 1,891 in 2010. The median price dropped from $207,000 in 2010's first quarter, to $197,000 in the first quarter of 2011. "We still have yet to find any clear trend line," said Tom Riley, a 35-year veteran of the real estate industry and president of Riley Enterprises in Bedford. Riley is president of the New Hampshire Association of Realtors. "Overall, it still appears to be a market that is stabilizing, but we're certainly in no position to make any bold predictions about a timetable for the recovery." The March sales decrease followed two consecutive months of increases. The data reflect a particularly difficult winter selling season in the state, according to the Association. Sullivan and Carroll counties were the only counties to show median price increases in the first quarter of this year.

• **Bank's survey shows small businesses are optimistic:** Hampshire First Bank recently released its second annual Business First Report, which was based on a survey of businesses throughout the state conducted in March. Respondents answered questions related to industry profile, economic outlook, employee benefits, business expansion, business management, environmental concerns and marketing practices, and respondents fell into 27 different business categories. According to the report, nearly 91 percent of respondents expect sales to remain steady or increase in 2011. More than 75 percent of respondents represented corporations and limited liability companies, and 89 percent of respondents represented small businesses with 100 or fewer employees. About 83 percent of respondents said the regional economy has improved or has stayed the same, which is a jump from 72 percent in last year's survey. Still, 50 percent said they had difficulty securing business financing in the past year. Visit www.hampshirefirst.com.

• **Guinta focusing on small businesses:** U.S. Rep. Frank Guinta was expected to launch an initiative this week called "Getting Granite Staters Back to Work," a partnership with small business owners and people looking for work, according to a release from Guinta's office. Along with attending a Seacoast Business Roundtable this week, Guinta was slated to visit companies in Dover, Portsmouth and Londonderry. Guinta's office sent a survey to small business owners asking for input on what government should and shouldn't do to help them expand and hire more employees. Guinta was expected to announce the survey results at a business roundtable event in Manchester this week. The initiative would conclude with two jobs fairs in the district in May, with times, dates and locations to be announced.

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Don’t let ’em bite

Prevention is key with bedbugs

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

Bedbugs have had a resurgence in recent years, but thanks to the local Bed Bug Action Committee in Manchester and its many partners, the city is looking to stay on top of the pesky and irritating bugs.

Two years ago, local stakeholders began using integrated pest management to clean up Langdon Mill in Manchester. That project is finishing in June. Currently, the building is 98-percent bedbug-free, said Sarah Jane Knoy, executive director of the Granite State Organizing Project, a collection of civic and labor organizations, which works on the bedbug problem.

The unpleasant tick-like bugs feed on blood and leave people itching. Children in Langdon Mill were having trouble just getting a good night’s sleep as they couldn’t get any relief from the bugs. The bugs don’t transmit any diseases, however.

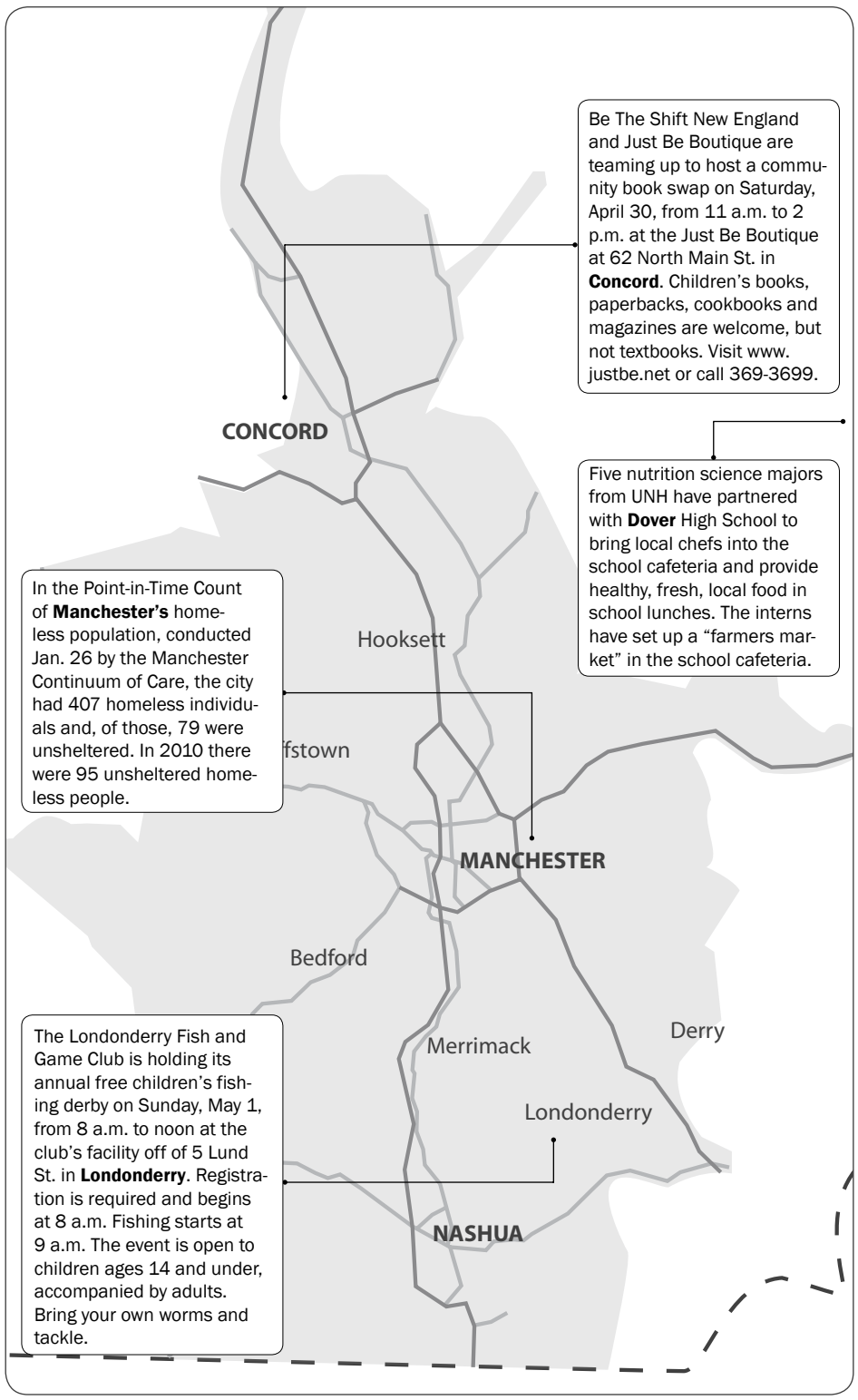
“They affect everybody,” Knoy said. “It’s not an income issue. It’s not a cleanliness issue. When we work together we can really stop bedbugs, and only when we work together.”

The citywide collaboration has seen aldermen pass a resolution to allow the committee to take action on the bedbugs. The public health department, Neighborworks, The Way Home, New Horizons, aldermen, the school department, landlords, hotel owners and pest control operators have banded together on this issue, Knoy said.

“It’s really a broad cross-section of the city that has participated,” Knoy said.

In the last couple years, the committee has created a slew of educational materials to help people identify bedbugs and prevent their spread.

Pesticides like DDT kept bedbugs pretty much in check until many pesticides were banned in the 1970s. Clothing and furniture are the usual transportation options for bedbugs; that’s why hotels, apartments and dormitories have fallen victim to the bugs in recent years, officials say. In Manchester, a major source of transmission is second-hand



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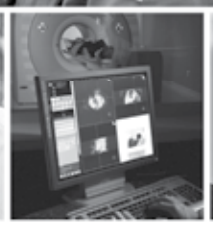

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furniture.

Knoy said while there has been a resurgence of bedbugs nationally, the Northeast is sort of bedbug headquarters. It's difficult to know how well things are going with bedbugs in the city. Knoy figured Manchester shouldn't be any worse than somewhere else, especially since officials have been proactive.

Bedbugs can be difficult to eradicate, because they can go months between meals and can be difficult to locate when they're not looking to feed. Public health officials recommend employing a licensed pet control company to get rid of bedbugs.

The Bed Bug Action committee will be providing a formal report to aldermen in Manchester in May.

Alderman Pat Long, who is also a state representative, filed legislation to create a legislative study commission to look at bedbugs. Instead of doing that, the House made Long the chairman of a Health and Human Services subcommittee on the bedbug issue.

The Bed Bug Action Committee was able to debunk an allegation at a local hotel. Someone took photos of bugs and posted them online alleging the hotel was infested with bed bugs. After the hotel reached out to the Committee, the Committee was able to defend the hotel — since the bugs were not bedbugs and the allegations were false, Knoy said.

If there's one thing people could do to head off bedbug proliferation it would simply be to not pick up used furniture off the street, Knoy said.

Visit www.nhbedbugs.com.

Band needs new duds

Current wardrobe is 15 years old and frayed

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

With more than 15 years of wear and tear and not enough bigger sizes, it's time to replace the uniforms of the Nashua High School South's marching band, band officials say.

The problem is that replacement uniforms cost a bundle — about $50,000 for 150 new uniforms.

"The uniforms are over 15 years old and they're in really rough shape," said Carolyn Koss Kasten, president of the band's booster club. "There are a lot of problems with them."

Along with uniforms wearing out, Kasten said they're too small for the current generation. Fifteen to 20 years ago, students were smaller and shorter, she said.

The uniforms were ordered in a variety of sizes to accommodate different sizes of people, naturally. Historically, the smaller uniforms have gone to freshmen, while bigger sizes have gone to seniors. But in recent years, the biggest sizes have gone to freshmen and the band has subsequently run out of larger sizes. The result is that band members have had to alter their uniform jackets and even make a pair of pants from scratch, Kasten said.

"Hemlines are frayed and they're in terrible, terrible condition, really terrible condition," Kasten said.

"It got to the point last year where we just knew it was time," Kasten added.

Kasten said uniforms are designed to last 10 to 12 years. The uniforms today are made with better, more durable fabrics, so Kasten said she's hoping new uniforms would last at least 15 more years. It would be a long-term investment, she said.

The band requested funds from the school district a few years ago, but the budget is only getting tighter. Band boosters had hoped the district would be able to meet them halfway on the uniform purchase, but it became clear there would be no money for uniforms. Through previous fundraising efforts, the boosters had about $25,000 in the bank, Kasten said.

"We had a feeling we were going to have to step up and help with the purchase," Kasten said.

Since starting fundraising six weeks ago, the Boosters have raised another $17,000.

"The community has been phenomenal, but obviously we still have a ways to go," Kasten said.

Kasten said the band is a big part of the community, as it marches in city parades and at football games and performs regularly at shows.

The band and boosters are doing a variety of things to raise funds, including a benefit concert with a whole new program on Wednesday, May 11, at the high school auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets cost $10 and can be purchased at www.nashuasouthmusic.org. Donations can be made at the band website as well.

The Nashua-based classic rock band The Mad Express will host a benefit concert for the high school band on Saturday, May 14, at 8 p.m. at Alpine Grove in Hollis. Tickets cost $10 and can be purchased at the door.

Other bands

The Nashua South High School band isn't the only local band with plenty going on.

The **Manchester Central High School Marching Band** is raising funds to travel to Pearl Harbor in December for the 70th commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor in an initiative dubbed Operation Pearl Harbor.

The commemoration will include a mass band concert on the USS Missouri with band students from across the country to honor those who died in the attack, including three graduates of Central High School. Central High School will be the only band from New Hampshire participating.

Along with participating in the concert, the Central Band will also visit the sites of where the three Central graduates died: Hickam Air Force base, where Joseph Jedrysik was killed; the wreck of the USS Utah, where David Crossett was killed; and the USS Arizona, where Joseph Rozmus died.

"We're losing our World War II veterans at an alarming rate; this is a chance for our kids to learn what happened at Pearl Harbor in a very personal way — the sacrifices of these men touch New Hampshire, and Manchester and Central," said band director Ed Sterling.

Send checks to Operation Pearl Harbor/care of Champs, Central High School, 207 Lowell St., Manchester, NH 03104. The band is inviting any Pearl Harbor veterans to travel with them. Call 624-6363. Visit www.operationpearlharbor.com. Send e-mail to centralchamps@mansd.org.

Additionally, the **Milford High School Band and Chorus** embarked on a European concert tour last week. The band and chorus performed at two concerts, one in Paris and one in Barcelona. The tour was in the works for two years and 31 band members had been rehearsing for the past four months in preparation for tour, said Milford High School band director Bradley Smith in an e-mail.

Rainy day at the Statehouse

Hundreds speak against proposed cuts

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

The wind whipped leaves and grit from the ground while a woman snapped a photo of her son on the steps of the Statehouse last Thursday, April 21.

There were no protesters. There were no helicopters circling to get video from the air. Gone were the chants and the bagpipes and the signs — aside from some folks wearing hats reading "I choose Harbor Homes." Gone was the harsh rhetoric.

Inside Representatives' Hall there was no protest either, no chants from the House gallery. There were just people, hundreds of people speaking in support of services they needed or that they thought were tied to the fabric of the state. Some wore stickers reading "People can't wait."

Some pleaded. Others stated their cases in terms of dollars and practicality. The seven members of the Senate Finance Committee listened intently as speaker after speaker took to the microphone and made their points.

> "Gone was the harsh rhetoric. Inside Representatives' Hall, there were just people, hundreds of people speaking in support of services they needed."

As of 4:30 p.m. that day, none of the speakers were in support of the House budget. People overflowed into the hallways as they waited their turn. Rousing applause and cheers filled the room at times, including when Senators announced they would extend the hearing, initially scheduled to go from 2 to 4 p.m., until 5 p.m. (Senators also listened to speakers from 6 to 8 p.m. that day.) Reports indicated as many as 600 people showed up at the public hearing last Thursday and many had to wait hours to speak. Senators are dealing with a budget proposal made by the state House of Representatives last month. From previous statements in news reports, it sounds like senators agree with the House's revenue figures, but not with all the proposed cuts, particularly ones that would affect the state's most vulnerable citizens.

The House passed a $10.2 billion budget proposal last month amid a storm of protesters. The House's budget would cut current spending levels by $742 million and by more than $519 million more than what Gov. John Lynch proposed in February in his budget proposal. In total, the House budget cuts current spending levels by about 17 percent. Dramatic cuts are needed as the state faces nearly a $1 billion deficit when the next two-year budget kicks off July 1. The House budget would leave 7,000 people without mental health services, dramatically cut aid to hospitals, eliminate the Department of Cultural Resources and make major changes to collective bargaining practices. Some officials think the House went too far.

"The House budget goes far beyond what is necessary to live within our means, risking our state's economic strategy and the health and safety of our citizens," Lynch said in a statement.

Senators have gone on record saying they will put the state's most vulnerable citizens at the top of their priority list. The House budget cuts spending to the largest state agency, the Department of Health and Human Services, by $207 million more than Lynch proposed. The budget would hit community health centers particularly hard as well.

The Finance Committee was expected to hear from state agencies regarding the budget throughout this week as well.

Voices

There was Gail Garceau, the CEO of New Hampshire Healthy Kids, a nonprofit organization that provides health insurance to uninsured kids and teens. She suggested the House's budget would essentially turn over the lauded Healthy Kids program to Medicaid. She also suggested doing that could end up costing the state money rather than saving it some. She was willing to meet with lawmakers to develop a "true cost-saving solution."

Likewise, hospital officials say cutting aid to them will ultimately result in higher insurance costs for residents. The House budget would cut $115 million in aid to hospitals. Lynch also proposed major cuts to hospitals and criticized how much money hospital executives were making.

There was former Democratic senator Harold Janeway, who spoke against the House's plans to use any additional revenues that come in over budget in the state's reserve fund or to lower taxes.

"That's just a terrible proposition at a time such as this," Janeway said. "It makes no sense, with so much hurt, to not at least be flexible ... if revenue comes in above estimates."

Philip Francoeur spoke about how the state's alcohol and drug treatment programs have helped him stay clean and sober for more than a decade, after spending time in prison. He said cutting funding to programs that would help people get drug and alcohol treatment could have a negative impact on the state's corrections system — and would ultimately cost the state money. The corrections system is already one of the state's major budget-drivers.

There were countless parents speaking in support of their children with disabilities and mental illnesses. They were concerned they'd lose needed services the state provides and would be left with nowhere to turn.

There was state Rep. Charles McMahon R-Windham, who said he did support the House's budget but wasn't happy with everything in it. He said he wanted to change some of the budget's priorities.

McMahon was on the same page as Janeway regarding the rainy day fund. In fact, maybe McMahon summed it up best when he told Senators at the public hearing, "We're in the rainy day."

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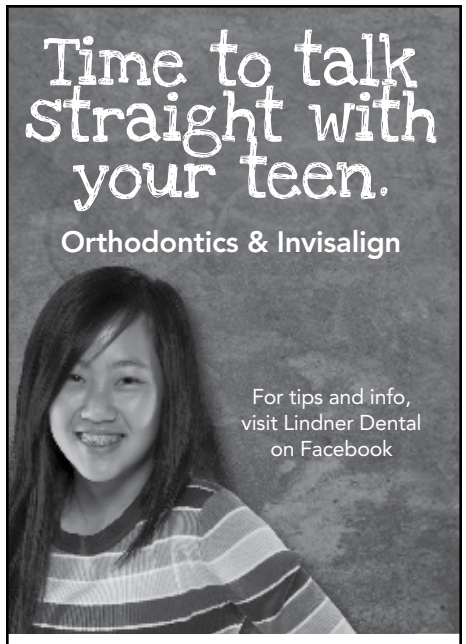

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Women at the sawmill

Book tells the story of Turkey Pond, 1942

Sarah Smith, a forestry specialist with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, has written a book on the first woman-operated sawmill, which was built at Turkey Pond in Concord in 1942. The book, *They Sawed Up A Storm*, details the history of the sawmill, which was built to process downed timber from a 1938 hurricane. World War II made labor scarce, so the Forest Service turned to women to run the mill. Visit www.turkeypond.com.

***Q:* How did you get into this…?**

Through my work with the UNH Cooperative Extension, I work with loggers in the forest industry. One day I was working with a sawmill operator in Andover — the mill is no longer there; at the time it was. He came across the mill yard with an old scrapbook and said, "I think you'd be interested in this." His name was John Willey. When I opened the front page, there was this picture of this group of ... eight women. One of the women was his mother. Her name was Laura Willey. He said his mom was part of an all-women sawmill crew.

How did the group come together?

It came about really as a result of the 1938 hurricane. Prior to 1942 when the women's sawmill was built, the wood was put in Turkey Pond to preserve it. The U.S. Forest Service was in charge of the salvage operation. They had contracted with the sawmills to saw up all this lumber. It was a huge amount of timber. You can't even conceive of how much timber. It was about 2.6 billion board-feet. ...Turkey Pond had about 12 million board-feet, so it was just a portion of the 2.6 billion. ...They were having a really hard time getting it sawed up. There was a sawmill on the south shore, Durant Mill. By 1941 in December, they had lost a lot of their labor. It was just a really hard time to get done what needed to get done. The Forest Service had duties working toward the war effort that didn't include working toward a hurricane project in New England. They were getting frustrated. There were a lot of documents having to do with this. You could see they were getting frustrated. One of the answers was they could build a sawmill. Most others were privately owned. They said let's staff it with women, and that's what they did.

Preserving the logs in the pond, how does that work?

Fresh-sawed logs are attractive to insects and also fungus. Both of those things will actually destroy lumber.... The water cuts off the oxygen supply and it cools it down. Even today, big sawmills sprinkle logs with water. They don't put them in ponds anymore, though.

You interviewed Barbara Webber Ford [one of the workers at the mill]. What was that like?

For me, it was very exciting. Barbara was a pretty reserved person, typical of women of that era. They didn't understand why I had any interest. … I think it was really a reflection of the kind of duty that she felt. They did that at the time in support of the war effort. They were working hard at jobs not traditionally done by women.

How long did the sawmill last?

It only ran for a little over a year. And then they were done. Between them and the other sawmill, they were able to finish.

In your research, did you find a sense of pride among women in doing these jobs?

I feel pretty solid saying that. In reading a lot of books that talked about women, women accomplishing things was a theme that ran through them. There was a sense of pride. There's a book called *Fly Girls*, in which women ferried planes. They were sort of neglected. But that was the thing. They really felt that pride. And boy oh boy they were really accomplishing something amazing.

What do you take away yourself from the process of putting this book together?

That it keeps going. … It's that ability, not just that women but people in general sort of rise to the occasion and become these super humans that wouldn't ordinarily do these things.

When did this change from something that you thought was interesting into a book?

I had written some articles and things, and there was just so much. The book is pretty short. It was really a need to get most of what I found down on paper so the next person in 50 years doesn't have to look as hard as I did. ….

Where did you go to find information about the sawmill?

Initially, it started with the source, John Willey. "Do you know of any people who might know about the sawmill?" He was pretty young at the time. He was probably 12 years old. ... It's calling a few people, turning over rocks that way. There are still more rocks to turn over. With women, particularly ones who aren't married, it's hard to trace them. Of course, by this time, most have gone. Just by age. The one woman I interviewed was 21 at the time. Now she's 91.

Because it was a federal program, there were archives. I was able to access the national archives and … request them to ship all the documents to Waltham, Mass., because there is a federal depository library there. There were a lot of photographs.... There was a lot of attention paid to the mill at the time. The AP, Boston Globe ... I also discovered a huge treasure trove of photos at the Library of Congress.

How big of a deal was this from a media perspective?

It was a big deal. If you looked at any newspaper — the Concord Monitor had a big headline about it being the first in the nation. It was really part of the propaganda of the time, women doing the jobs like working in a Navy yard welding or driving trucks, working on the railroad. .... —*Jeff Mucciarone*

QoL

APRIL 28, 2011 QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

420 er... 25

Rochester has been named the 25th pot smoking capital in the United States by the Daily Beast, a website owned by Newsweek. The story said of the 30,568 residents in the New Hampshire city, about nine percent are regular users. It also gave the city a six out of 10 for pot culture. Rochester still has a way to go to surpass Tallahassee, Fla., which was ranked number one.

QOL score: -1

Comment: *While 25 is pretty high on the list, Rochester is more than a stoner's throw away from its neighbor to the south. Boston was ranked number two.*

More on drugs

New Hampshire is one of 17 states in the U.S. where more people are killed each year by accidental overdoses than in car accidents, according to a report by ABC News. The Granite State is only part of an alarming trend in the U.S., which consumes 80 percent of the world's painkillers even though it only accounts for 4.6 percent of its population. The top-selling drug: Vicodin.

QOL score: -1

Comment: *Maybe we just drive safely.*

Monarchs unable to close it out

The Manchester Monarchs, the affiliate of the Los Angeles Kings, lost to the Binghamton Senators in overtime last Saturday night, in the first round of the playoffs. The Senators overcame a 3-1 series deficit to win the best-of-seven series. The Monarchs trailed 4-1 in the second period but came back to take a 5-4 lead before the Senators tied the score and then ended it in overtime. The loss ends the season for the Monarchs, who finished second in the Atlantic Division of the Eastern Conference.

QOL score: -1

Comment: *After being down 3-1 in the series, the Senators won three straight overtime games to take the series.*

The Donald is coming but you'll probably miss him

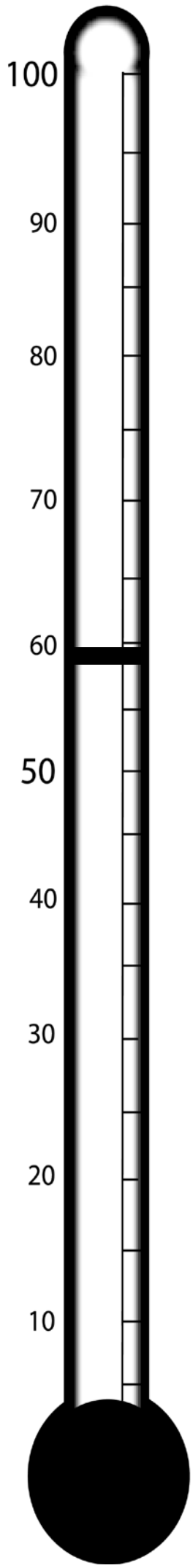
Billionaire real estate mogul and possible presidential candidate Donald Trump was scheduled to spend about eight hours in New Hampshire this past Wednesday, April 27. But other than a media availability session in Portsmouth, Trump had no announced public events scheduled. A campaign operative told the Union Leader the visit was not intended to be a public meet-and-greet, though the report indicated Trump would make an unannounced stop along a main street in a New Hampshire community.

QOL score: -1 (for not letting Granite Staters get in on the fun)

Comment: *Trump is scheduled to return to New Hampshire on May 11, when he will speak to the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce, so prepare your Gary Busey jokes now.*

QOL score: 63
Net change: -4
QOL this week: 59

Notice something that changed the quality of life for good or for ill in southern New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com



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- Mary Danboise, (pictured left) with her physical therapist, Kari Rabito, MSPT

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Busy week means lots to talk about

There's too much going on this week to focus on just one topic. So unless our publisher Jody Reese decides to go to being a daily for the week so I can get my two cents in on the Pats draft, the NFL draft, the Celtics playoffs, the Sox out there on the road, the Bruins and — we'll have to do it this way.

Celtics Move On: My friend the insurance mogul **Dick Lombardi** e-mailed after last week's column to say I was being like a politician for hedging on who'd win in the Miami –Boston bracket in last week's predictions. I said then the Cs would lose unless **Rajon Rondo** came out of the coma he'd been during the final month of the season. After seeing him take apart the Knicks in the four-game sweep it's obvious he's emerged from it — so I've got the Cs in six over the Heat. How's that for not hedging?

Media Makes a Bigger Deal of Things than Actual People: In case you missed it: a Sports Nation Poll showed that 72 percent of the baseball public DOES NOT CARE about the steroids scandal. The ones who care are the media — who are outraged at the cheating and what it's done to the record book. And that's fine, but they keep reporting about as if the public cares as much as them, which could not be more wrong. And it's the same with the lockout in the NFL, where we keep getting breathless reports from ESPN and guys like the Globe's **Greg Bedard** that the season "is in peril." I don't know about you, but wake me up on **Arnold Palmer**'s birthday and if it's still a lockout then I MIGHT think that a few games might be in peril. I can tell you there's a greater chance of me voting for **Newt Gingrich** for president than there is that the powers that be in the NFL will put their golden goose of a season in real peril.

The Hall of Fame: Who's Gonna Be Left to Get In the Next 10 Years? In the wake of **Manny's** PED-induced retirement, the conviction of **Barry Bonds** on a perjury charge and the impending trial of **Roger Clemens** on similar charges, my question is what will happen to the Hall of Fame over the next 10 years?

Joel Sherman made a very rational case for why he still will vote for Bonds in the New York Post last week. He basically said Bonds was a Hall of Famer before he started using to hit 73 homers in 2001 and eventually pass **Hank Aaron**'s all-time home run mark. Only problem is what about the "integrity of the game" clause that is one of five criteria supposed to be considered in any selection? Seems to me cheating to get an edge violates that clause and there's no getting around it. So the question is, since the likes of Bonds, Clemens, Manny, **Sammy Sosa**, **Mark McGwire**, **Rafael Palmeiro** and others ain't getting in because of the taint of steroids, is the Hall not going to induct anyone at all or are voters going to lower the standards of what an actual Hall guy should be to make sure someone gets in?

Sox: Two Big Question Marks Pointing in the Right Direction: Even with the rough start, there are two things that point to real optimism for the Sox. It's the play so far of what going into the season were the two gigantic question marks the Sox had: **Josh Beckett** and **Jonathan Papelbon**.

In the case of Beckett, in each of the last two Aprils, when he somehow was 3-2, his ERAs were an identical 7.22 with batting averages against of .316 last year and .303 in 2009. This year in four starts it's 1.93 with a batting average against of .147 and they're 3-1 in games he's started. He's also averaging a strikeout an inning with 28 in 28. A big improvement by any measure, but they are also the ace-like numbers he put on the board in his best year with the Sox in 2007 when he won 20 games.

As for Pap, I was expecting a further erosion of his performance based on his lack of command the last couple of years, but so far that has not been the case. While the WHIP is a little off his peak years of 2006-08 when they were well below 1.0, at 1.09 it's not because of walks, which was the problem last year. He's perfect in five save opportunities and he's still striking out better than a man an inning with 11 in 8.1 innings. If he can keep this up they will be in very good shape even if they don't hit — as many expect them to eventually do.

Patriots: What Will Coach B Do in This Week's Draft? All indications are that since he's got three of the first 33 picks and six of the first 90 **Bill Belichick** is ready to wheel and deal starting during round one of the NFL draft on Thursday. That's what he did two years ago when he moved out of the first round to wind up with four second-round picks. Last year it was a first and three seconds. And the early returns on that are strong with him getting an A for the picks of **Devin McCourty** late in Round I and **Sebastian Vollmer** and **Rob Gronkowski** in Round II. He gets a B for **Pat Chung** and **Aaron Hernandez**, a B- for **Brandon Spikes**, at the moment a C for **Jermaine Cunningham** and worse for the picks of **Darius Butler** and **Ron Brace**, who to date are below-the-Mendoza-line picks.

And I've got no problem with that *IF* he goes after what they need most this time, which he did not do in 2009 when he dropped from 23rd overall back into the second round where he got Chung and another pick. Only problem was he needed then what he still must have now — an edge rusher — and after they dropped down, Green Bay took **Clay Matthews** at 26, whose dynamic edge rushing was a key to the Packers' Super Bowl-winning team. So, Bill, I'm begging you, don't do it again. A pass rusher or two of his caliber would take an improving defense not one but two floors up to the lobby of the "these guys are really good" floor. I just know what I read on this subject, but given that there will be a rookie salary scale to keep the price down and get the kid into camp on time, I'm for going up to get Texas A & M linebacker **Von Miller** if he thinks he's as good as the pundits say. I'm betting he doesn't do that, but I'm hoping he does.

Dave Long can be e-mailed at dlong@hippopress.com. He hosts Saturday Morning Sports with Dave Long *from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays on WGAM – The Game, 1250-AM in Manchester and 900-AM in Nashua.*

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Central Hall of Fame induction brings in big names

The Big Story: That's all she wrote for the Monarchs in 2011 as they came up empty on Saturday night in the first Game 7 ever at the world famous Verizon Wireless Arena. They didn't go easy, though: it took a **Ryan Potulny** one-timer at 3:07 into overtime for the Ms to fall to the Binghamton Senators by a score of 6-5 and be eliminated from the Calder Cup playoffs 4 games to 3.

Sports 101: Of these quarterbacks taken with the first overall selection, who threw the fewest touchdown passes in their rookie year — **Terry Bradshaw**, **Jim Plunkett**, **John Elway**, **Jeff George**, **Peyton Manning** or **Jamarcus Russell**?

Pitching Duel of the Week: It came in Pinkerton's 1-0 win over Memorial in nine innings when both **Ryan Feeney** and **Zach Beckwith** went the distance in giving up a combined nine hits over 10 innings as Feeney picked up the win and knocked in the game's lone run and Beckwith got the tough-luck loss.

Old Adage Game of the Week: An old adage in baseball is don't beat yourself by giving up walks and making errors. Well maybe the Central boys wanted to prove that wrong as they walked a whopping 12 and made five errors on Tuesday and still won! Their wild win over Winnacunnet was decided on the final play. After going into the inning leading 9-6 they found themselves in a bases-loaded, one-out predicament with the lead down to 9-8 — the game ended on a weird double play on a fly ball that right fielder **Pat Landroche** caught and then the runner on third got called out (and thrown out of the game) after running over Central's **Sean Burke** instead of sliding. The win moved the Green to 3-0 on the year.

Babe Ruth Award: It goes to St. Anselm's **Robert Kelly**, who went 4 for 8 in back-to-back Hawks wins over SNHU and retired the final 14 Penmen batters to pick up the win in Wednesday's 5-4 win on North River Road.

All Ryan Battery of the Week: Happened in the Goffstown–Milford game when **Ryan Smith** no-hit the Spartans with **Ryan Beal** behind the plate and hit a two-run homer as G-town got out with an 11-1 win.

On This Date – April 28: 1967 – **Muhammad Ali** refused induction into the military after being drafted and was stripped of his heavyweight crown; 1985 – **Billy Martin** named Yankees manager for a fourth time; 1990 – the Celtics beat the Knicks 157-128 to take a 2-0 lead in their best-of-five miniseries (and then went on to blow the series by losing the next three games); 1993 – former NC State basketball coach **Jim Valvano** died of cancer at 47.

Sports 101 Answer: While Peyton Manning threw 28 interceptions in his rookie season to go along with 26 TD passes, the worst first year by a first overall selected quarterback has to go to Bradshaw, who threw just six TD passes and 24 interceptions for the Steelers in 1970.

The Numbers

0 – runs allowed by **Kelsea Kilmer** in shutting out Trinity as Memorial beat the Pioneers 11-0 thanks in part to **Katie Goudrous**' three-run homer and two steals from **Sydney Farley**.

5 – goals scored by **Meghan Smith** to lead the Saint Anselm laxsters to a 17-8 thumping of Franklin Pierce.

8 – runs scored in the sixth inning by Bedford to help the Bulldogs blow Windham away 14-2 when **Carley Rosenfeld** had three hits and three RBI while **Heather Fyfe** hit a big three-run homer in the decisive sixth inning.

11 – hits for the Central girls softball team, who nonetheless managed to get 14 runs with a 14-2 win over Timberlane as **Sam Sinotte** had three hits and knocked in three and **Sarah Lavelle** got the win after allowing just five hits and striking out seven.

14 – strikeouts by **Cullan Baker** as he went the distance to get a complete game win when Campbell downed Hopkinton 7-4.

20 – goals scored by the Pinkerton boys in a 20-5 run-over of Concord when **Tom** and **Jeff Auger** each had three goals and two assists for the Astros and **Caleb Hawkins** had three goals for the Crimson.

21 – goals scored by the Londonderry girls in a 21-5 NHIAA lacrosse win over Nashua when **Alex Bedall** had six goals for the Lancers.

Sports Glossary

Arnold Palmer's birthday: First came on Sept. 10, 1929, so the electrifying player is now 81. He came to prominence as people startled flicking on their TV newfangled sets and his popularity kicked into gear when he won the 1958 Masters and flourished as he did it again in '60, '62 and '64. He was first to win $1 million on the PGA tour. Overall won $1.8 million in prize money in his career along with 8 majors and a fifth-best-ever 62 PGA Tour events.

Newt Gingrich: Former Speaker of the House, now presidential wannabe snooping around New Hampshire. Polarizing figure who wasted $50 million of our money on a witch hunt to score political points against democratic adversary Bill Clinton, which started as an investigation of a land deal and wound up catching an unfaithful guy stepping out on his wife, as, oh by the way, Newt was doing the same thing himself.

Barry Bonds: Just convicted of perjury; fallen star who in the latter stages of his career had some of baseball's most phenomenal individual seasons: 73 homers in 2001, 12 seasons where he drove in 100 or more runs, and 232 walks in the season in 2004, which eclipsed his record of 198 two years earlier and was 52 more than the 170 of Babe Ruth in 1923, which had been the record for 78 years before Bonds broke it with 177 in 2001. And then there's the MVPs, where no one besides him has won more than three — which he bested by winning each year from 2001 to 2004 to go along with the three he'd previously won, to make it seven.

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Green thumb season

Time to get into the garden

It's time to get dirty.

The growing season in New Hampshire doesn't last long, so now's the time to get to work on creating the outdoor space of your dreams. Maybe that means flowers and a green lawn, or maybe your goal is a harvest to keep you in tomato sauce and zucchini bread all winter long. Whatever your plans, the yard and at least four months of relatively warmer weather await.

Here are some stories to get you started. We give you some advice from the experts about organic gardening and getting rid of garden pests. And we look at community gardening — where apartment-dwellers, gardeners who like some company and those with poor soil can turn to get their hands dirty. And we also look at some of the mental benefits of putting shovel to ground as well as places to turn for some gardening fellowship and further study.

Pull out the gloves and the wide-brimmed hat and spend some hours playing in the dirt.

Share the garden

Keep pests out by bringing wildlife in

By Jeff Mucciarone

If you like snacking on the fresh produce popping out of the earth in your home garden, there's a good chance critters will too.

While your initial reaction is probably to try to keep critters out of the garden, there are also ways to let some critters in for the benefit of the whole backyard habitat. But you'll probably need to take some steps to prevent deer or woodchucks from munching a little too freely on your green beans.

Marilyn Wyzga, a wildlife educator with the state Department of Fish and Game, promotes building a garden in the context of wildlife — enhancing both the garden and the presence of local animals. Rob Calvert, with Fish and Game Wildlife Services, has some ideas for keeping unwanted animals on the outside looking in.

People should expect to see plenty of wildlife in the backyard: insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians and some small mammals are probably already making the back yard home. The key is putting the focus on beneficial insects — that drives the equation. As nectar feeders, honey bees, butterflies, moths and (though not an insect) hummingbirds serve to pollinate the garden, said Wyzga, who co-authored a book titled *Integrated Landscaping: Following Nature's Lead*.

"If you want a healthy vegetable garden, with all parts of the system intact ... you've got to anticipate some things are going to be eaten a little bit," Wyzga said. "Shift the mindset to sharing with wildlife, a little bit for you, a little for me, then we all benefit."

Think about interspersing some flowers, such as impatiens, nasturtium and marigolds. The bright flowers — and particularly nasturtium, which has extremely bright colors — draw in hummingbirds, which only benefit the backyard habitat, Wyzga said.

Gardeners can mix the flowers right in with vegetables. Sunflowers are a nice addition to a vegetable garden, both as a nectar plant and as a seed source later in the season. So while the flowers add a pleasing visual touch to the vegetable garden, they also tend to bring in beneficial insects that help the garden, Wyzga said.

"When you've got more insects, a diversity of insects, insectivorous birds,

birds that eat bugs, come in and feed on the bugs," Wyzga said. "It influences the whole food web."

A diversity of insects brings in all different kinds of swallows, warblers and flycatchers.

Gardeners can also think about adding flowering herbs to the mix, such as marjoram, different mints, dill or parsley. Herbs are appealing for the chef, for the flowers and for caterpillars, moths and butterflies, which feed on the herbs.

"A lot like to see butterflies up close, but you need to have caterpillars first," Wyzga said. "I always tell people in my wildlife habitat talks, if you want butterflies, you've got to anticipate some of the plant materials are going to get eaten. Plant enough and know some are going to get chewed on. It's all part of the mix."

A healthy food web in the back yard also draws in reptiles and amphibians, such as toads. Those animals, which prefer moist areas, prey on different insects as well.

"They're great to have in a vegetable garden," Wyzga said, adding many will munch on the not-so-beneficial insects that might make their way into the garden. Having more moisture is a good thing for more than just amphibians. Butterflies like to puddle in the mud as well.

Alongside the vegetable garden could be a good place to provide more habitat for backyard birds, which like dense shrubs. Wyzga said to think in layers. Start with ground cover, and then perennials, particularly ones with bright red flowers, which are appealing to hummingbirds in particular. Try out a bee balm, which also comes in red.

Asters, columbine and different types of grasses are solid options for creating a diverse habitat. Grasses seed in the fall and become a food source for wildlife. A mixture of low and tall shrubs and smaller trees can help create a nice variety, Wyzga said.

Make sure to consider a water source, which could be as simple as a bird bath. Keep the bird bath clean and make sure to switch out the water often enough so you're not breeding mosquitoes. People use plastic water jugs with a hole poked into it to constantly drip water into the bird bath, Wyzga said.

You can step up from a bird bath to a small pond with a circulation pump that can be purchased at a Home Depot-type store. Fish and Game has a 1,000-gallon two-tier circulation pond complete with five different species of frogs. On a smaller scale, a home gardener can purchase an entire system for a pond with a plastic shell, including a circulation pump, for less than $100. Ponds draw in different kinds of aquatic insects, which naturally draw in more insect-eating birds, Wyzga said.

And don't worry about keeping things too, too neat.

"We have a tendency with gardens where we want to be really tidy," Wyzga said. "I encourage people to leave some of the leaf litter on the ground. It's doing a couple things. They're protecting the soil, so it's not blowing or washing away. It also breaks down and becomes soil. It's also a great place for insects to hang out.

"And then the waves of migrating birds that come through ... as they're passing through New Hampshire, they'll land in the garden and they'll kick around in the leaf litter to eat wintering insects and larvae. They help to clean up the garden a little bit. They may be removing some of the less beneficial insects."

Not all animals are welcome additions to the backyard habitat if a successful garden is in your plans. Woodchucks, rabbits, raccoons and squirrels can all snack on garden offerings. But Wyzga said those animals tend to already be present in the back yard for other behaviors people have — for example, raccoons are attracted to trash cans. Bird feeders, which ideally would be put away by now, attract squirrels and chipmunks. Bears are out now and feeders attract them as well.

"The bottom line is once you start playing with the food web, you're going to be inviting things — you don't necessarily get to decide who's there," Wyzga said. "You might be influencing some other species. Chances are they were there anyway and you just hadn't been aware of them."

If your back yard is home to lots of small mammals, then there are probably other critters, like weasels, that are present preying on the small mammals.

"You're always going to get the wildlife you deserve," Calvert said. "When you plant a garden it's like *Field of Dreams*. If you build it, they will come. You probably need to be aware as soon as you put something in the ground and spread fertilizer and make it more palatable than the native vegetation, you're going to have some visitors."

There's plenty home gardeners can do to keep some animals out of the garden.

Deer and woodchucks are attracted to greens of all kinds, as well as cucumbers, pumpkins and squash. Anyone whose garden has fallen victim to a deer feast knows deer can do serious damage in a night. Some people use sulfur-based repellants to deter deer. Some of those repellants are best used as a perimeter application as you wouldn't want the repellant contacting fruits or vegetables, Calvert said.

Repellants are helpful in reducing damage, but they're unlikely to stop it completely. That's where fences and barrier technology come into play, Calvert said.

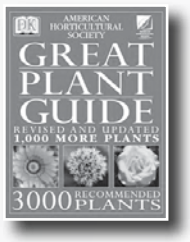
People can purchase a variety of fences to keep woodchucks and raccoons out. Stock wire or a chicken-wire-style grid can prevent animals from getting in beneath a fence. It helps to bury the fence a foot or so beneath the ground. Coyotes keep woodchuck populations down. A good dog might do the trick as well, Calvert said.

People also use Mylar tape, which is a silver and red double-sided tape that will flash with the slightest breeze. Those types of reflective measures can keep animals off guard and possibly away from your garden, Calvert said.

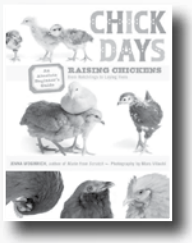
A product called a Critter Gitter uses a nine-volt battery with a heat sensor to sound an alarm when an animal triggers its sensor. That can be used as a stand-alone measure or in combination with something else, Calvert said.

For deer, gardeners might want to think about setting up a homemade electric fence — a 20- to 30-inch-high fence with two strands of "hot" tape (electrified tape) in combination with stainless steel posts. Gardeners can hang aluminum foil off the tape with peanut butter smeared on as bait. When the curious deer comes over to investigate, its first encounter with the fence will

Recent releases to help your garden grow



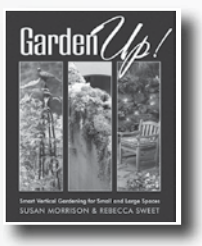
• ***American Horticultural Society Great Plant Guide*** **(2011, DK)** Looking for plants with pretty-smelling flowers? Or to go between the tiles in your garden path? Or for that soggy spot in the yard? Plants that thrive in specific locations are listed in the back of this book, which is filled with an A-to-Z list of garden-friendly plants. The book also contains a section on bedding plants and tips for picking a plant and preparing the soil. Bright color pictures help you choose plants to create the look you desire.



• ***Chick Days: Raising Chickens from Hatchlings to Laying Hens, An Absolute Beginner's Guide*****, by Jenna Woginrich (2010, Storey Publishing)** If the thought of a regular supply of fresh eggs has you considering a little backyard chicken coop, *Chick Days* is a good place to start. The book walks you through the process of picking, preparing for and raising your chicks into laying hens and keep ing them healthy to get the most eggs you can. A list of varieties of chicken can help you choose ones that are right for you.

• ***The Complete Kitchen Garden: An Inspired Collection of Garden Designs & 100 Season Recipes,*** **by Ellen Ecker Ogden (2011, Stewart, Tabori & Chang)** This book gets right to the point of why many people garden — to grow tasty food. It offers different garden layouts, geared to desired results — say, fresh salad greens, flavorful herbs, heirloom fruits and veggies or a smattering of different plants that can teach kids about gardening. And it has recipes to help you make the most of your harvest.

• ***Garden Rules: The Snappy Synopsis for the Modern Gardener*****, by Jayme Jankins and Billie Brownell (2011, Cool Springs Press)** "So lighten up; they're just plants" — this line is from "Plants can't read," a one-page essay about how plants don't know what hardiness zone they're in. If you want to try something, do it. The plant may live, the plant may die — within the constraints of your budget, be adventurous. The book is full of common-sense advice, presented with chatty charm.



• ***Garden Up!: Smart Vertical Gardening for Small and Large Spaces*****, by Susan Morrison & Rebecca Sweet (2011, Cool Springs Press)** If your "garden" is some containers on your condo

continued on page 14

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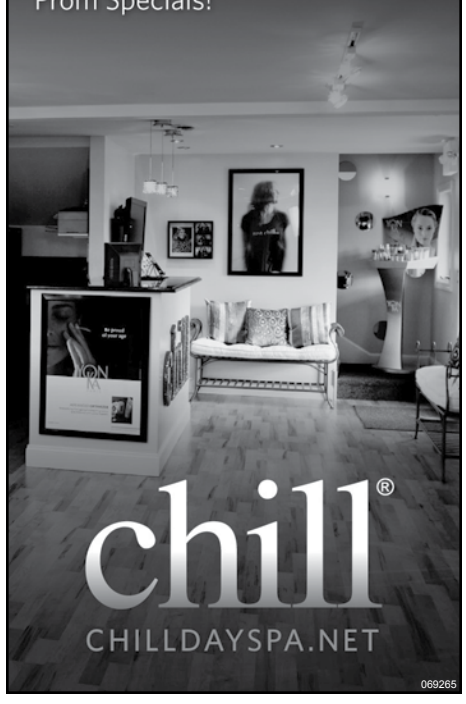

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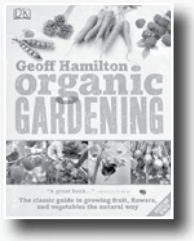
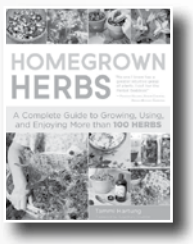
continued from page 13

deck or a small patch next to your townhome's patio, this book can give you ideas for maximizing the space and growing the flowers or fruits and vegetables of your dreams. It has some fantastic garden porn, such as pictures of "living walls," some of which are planted with succulents that might not be right for this climate but will fit perfectly in that vacation home all of us dream about on cold days.

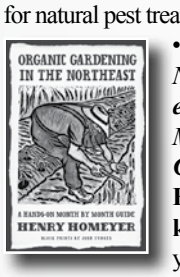


• ***Geoff Hamilton Organic Gardening: The Classic Guide to Growing Fruit, Flowers and Vegetables the Natural Way*, by Geoff Hamilton (2011, DK)** Drawings and color pictures on nearly every page help make this book a good all-around reference for those graduating from tomatoes in a pot to more involved gardening. In addition to descriptions of a variety of plants and advice on how to set up everything from container plantings to fully landscaped yards, the book offers lots of illustrated explanations of structures — wires and supports for vines, netting that protects plants from pests, and even a greenhouse.

• ***Great Fruit & Vegetable Guide* (2011, DK)** Looking to fill your garden with tomatoes, grow enough zucchini to have bread for a year or take care of an apple tree you inherited? This is a good pocket guide for a gardener looking to try a few fruits or vegetables. Turn to the Root Vegetables section and you'll get the basics of planting and harvesting them and a rundown of potatoes, carrots, parsnips, beets etc. with a bit of discussion about different varieties and basic information about hardiness, harvest season and container planting.



• ***Homegrown Herbs: A Complete Guide to Growing, Using and Enjoying More than 100 Herbs*, by Tammi Hartung (2011, Storey Publishing)** Part instruction book, part herb encyclopedia, part cookbook, *Homegrown Herbs* is a good resource for gardeners looking to grow plants specifically for cooking and herbal remedies. Topics include saving the seeds from this year's plant for next year and insect pests you may find in the garden (as well as some recipes for natural pest treatment).



• ***Organic Gardening Not Just in the Northeast: A Hands-On Month-By-Month Guide*, by Henry Homeyer (2011, Bunker Hill Publishing)** If you like Henry Homeyer's weekly advice in his Gardening Guy column in the Hippo, get him to help you all year long with this book, broken down into monthly tasks and interspersed with discussion of issues like watering and composting. Solid advice and entertaining tales make this book a real treat for gardeners of all levels.

be rather painful psychologically. For gardeners going the electric fence route, it's important to always keep the fence on, Calvert said.

"If they ever get into it when it's not on, then you've lost the element of a painful response," Calvert said.

People sometimes immediately think chain-link fencing and expensive components when it comes to fencing. Posts cost $2 to $3 each, and a roll of hot tape costs about $20 or so. The heart of the system is what drives it. Calvert said people can buy chargers to be plugged in for about $60 that must be kept on all the time. For about $150, gardeners can pick up a solar charger that uses the sun to create a charge.

"It really is a depreciable component system that lasts a number of years. If you value your time and your hobby efforts, it's a good investment," Calvert said.

Along with fencing, people often try to live-trap woodchucks, which can work, but once the garden gets under way it might be difficult to entice a woodchuck with something in a trap when it's got a fresh spread of produce in the garden. Try putting carrots, apples, lettuce or broccoli in some water in the trap to keep them fresh, Calvert said.

There isn't much of an issue with eastern cottontail rabbits in New Hampshire, aside from some specific locations. The same methods of control for woodchucks would work for rabbits, as well as skunks and raccoons. Skunks and raccoons enjoy sweet corn, and Calvert said the state is getting more incidents of Virginia possums getting into gardens.

Deer are a protected species, so gardeners can't start firing away on them. Woodchucks, on the other hand, are not protected. Some people, if they can locate both ends of a woodchuck's burrow, will use gas cartridges to eliminate the problem. If it's safe and if local permits allow, people can use firearms to stifle a woodchuck population. Calvert said people often use a .22 caliber rifle to shoot woodchucks.

But fences may be a safer and easier alternative, Calvert said.

"A lot of people have a Wild West mentality where they want to shoot everything that's in the back yard, but that's not always the best case," Calvert said.

Get wild

Fish and Game is hosting Discover Wild New Hampshire Day on Saturday, April 30, in collaboration with the Department's partners around the state. The free event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord. Marilyn Wyzga will be presenting a 30-minute talk three times during the day, at 11:30 a.m. and 1 and 2 p.m., regarding landscaping for wildlife. Visit www.wildnh.com.

Garden for good health

Getting outside can help you on the inside

By Adam Coughlin

Thirteen years ago, Donna Covais lost her vision. Discouraged, she closed her Raymond flower shop and prepared for a life without gardening. But, after meeting her husband and moving to Vermont, Covais rediscovered the power of horticultural therapy and she has dedicated her life to sharing its benefits.

She is not alone. Gardening as therapy is gaining traction both formally and informally around the state.

"Gardening connects you with nature," said Gail York of the Manchester NH Gardening Club. "It encourages you to spend time outside. When you were a kid you would go out and play in the dirt. Gardening is the grown-up version of that."

Maddy Perron, who has been a Master Gardener since 1993, is involved with the Horticulture Therapy program at the Hillsborough County Nursing Home. Horticulture Therapy is defined by the American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA) as "the engagement of a person in gardening activities, facilitated by a trained therapist, to achieve specific therapeutic treatment goals." Perron said for many seniors, working with the tiny seedlings makes them feel like they're taking care of babies, which, for many of them, was a major part of their lives when they were younger.

"Now tending to these small plants can be rewarding as well as self-fulfilling and can give [a resident] a sense of worth," Perron told a group of Master Gardeners. "The residents are now the caregivers and have a new role to play."

There are many additional emotional and psychological benefits of gardening, according to Covais. She said working with plants can heighten self-awareness and improve hopefulness. "Elderly people in a nursing home can know they are doing something meaningful," Covais said. "They aren't just doing busy work. That also helps cure boredom. Working with the plants can also improve fine and gross motor skills."

And then there's the final product: fresh vegetables, lovely flowers or herbs.

"With gardening you get to see the fruits of your labor," said York. "You get to enjoy the beauty of what you have planted."

Staff, volunteers and residents at the Hillsborough County Nursing Home engage in gardening as a therapeutic exercise. Courtesy photo.

You can also sell the product, which helps with that sense of meaning, according to Covais, who studied Horticulture at the University of New Hampshire. Such sales are happening Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30, at the Hillsborough County Nursing Home, 627-5540, and on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Nashua Historic Society.

Joan Bonnette, president of the Nashua Gardening Club, citing research done by Dr. Charlie Hall, a professor at Texas A&M University, said the presence of ornamental plants is known to increase memory retention, relieve tension and improve moods.

Even in the winter, house plants can be placed around the home; York said some are known to take pollutants out of the air.

Bonnette mentioned a study done in the late 1960s by Bill Wolverton for NASA. While heading a test facility in Florida, Wolverton discovered that swamp plants could eliminate Agent Orange, which had entered local watersheds as a result of government testing. While most people don't have Agent Orange in their homes or work place, they do have other pollutants or toxins. Bonnette said some foliage plants have been found to help take toxins out of the air.

Not everyone has access to large spaces for an outdoor garden. But gardening has great flexibility. York said a recent speaker for the Garden Club talked about container gardening, which is helpful for people in a city or in a nursing home. In this practice, people can plant vegetables in a container.

At the Hillsborough Nursing Home, Perron said, the gardens are composed of raised beds, a variety of plants to hold interest, and signage to help ID plants and engage cognitive and verbal skills. "These gardens become areas to socialize with family, friends and staff," Perron said.

This last comment brings up another point about gardening: it is a great social activity. York said the Manchester NH Garden Club is always welcoming new members and almost every town in southern New Hampshire has a group of people who get together and talk about their shared love of gardening.

"You don't need to be a great gardener to join," York said.

Besides flowers and vegetables, herb gardens are often popular, especially among the elderly.

"Each individual herb and its specific aroma and taste conjures up past experiences in cooking and gardening," Perron said in remarks to a group of Master Gardeners. "Recalling past meal preparations and socializing with family and friends can be a nostalgic experience for some."

That's the thing about gardening, according to Covais. It engages all the senses. The sight of red roses. The smell of fresh herbs. The taste of organic tomatos. The feel of the dirt in your hands. The sounds of friends chatting as they plant seeds. Even a completely disabled person can still enjoy the smells of fresh herbs.

"As we age our senses start to fade," Perron said. "...Herbs can liven up the senses."

These benefits are not limited to the elderly. York said she brings marigold seeds to the preschool she works at. Bonnette said studies have found that children who are exposed to plants often learn better.

Covais, who now works with Starr Farm Nursing Center in Burlington, Vt., said plants can even be used in schools to help illustrate to kids what happens to plants if you neglect or abuse them. Such visuals can help kids with eating disorders understand the damage they are doing to their bodies.

"Gardening can affect every age in a positive way," York said.

Garden clubs

Find fellow gardeners to celebrate the season (and commiserate with about pests and weeds) in these area clubs:

• **Gardening for Peace** at Herban Living (242 General Miller Hwy., Temple, 878-0459, herbanlivingbandb.com) on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

• **Goffstown Community Garden Club** holds meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Mountain View Middle School (41 Lauren Lane, Goffstown). Visit gardencentral.org/nhfgc/gcgc.

• **Granite State African Violet Society** (GSAVS) meets first Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. (except January and July) at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 Broadway in Derry, and holds regular workshops, plant and leaf sales and swaps. New members and visitors welcome; call 887-3154.

• **Hampstead Garden Club** holds meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Hampstead Congregational Church (61 Main St., Hampstead). Visit hampsteadgarden.org.

• **Hooksett Garden Club** is holding programs open to the public at the Hooksett Public Library (1701B Hooksett Road, Hooksett) on the last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Visit nhclubs.esiteasp.com/hooksettgardenclub.

• **Merrimack Garden Club** meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 646 DW Highway in Merrimack See www.merrimackgardenclub.org or contact Chris B. at 880-3739.

• **Nashua Garden Club** (nashuagardenclub.org) holds meetings the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church (121 Manchester St., Nashua). The public can attend meetings for a $5 fee. Membership is $20.

• **New Hampshire Orchid Society** meets 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on second Saturday of each month at the Bedford Town Hall, at the intersection of Meetinghouse Road and Bedford Center Road. Refreshments are available and visitors are welcome.

• **New Hampshire Rose Society** (newhampshirerosesociety.org) meets at locations in southern New Hampshire including the Bedford Library.

• **Opechee Garden Club** is online at www.opecheegardenclub.com.

Dirt for everybody

Get your green fix in a community garden

By Angel Roy

Communities are offering soil plots to residents who want to grow their own food and flowers but have too little land of their own.

"I believe everyone should have an opportunity to garden," said Amy O'Brien, administrator of the Hopkinton Community Garden. In addition to producing healthy food, O'Brien noted that planting your own produce will keep a little money in your pocket during the summer.

The Hopkinton Community Garden is made up of 20 25-foot by 25-foot plots (only a handful are not spoken for this season) on the property of Bill Chapin, a resident who decided to allow the use of the land in memory of his late wife, an avid gardener. Chapin also donated a spigot gardeners can use to water their plots. Gardeners must pay $15 to secure a plot for the season, but O'Brien said an anonymous donor has offered to take on the cost.

Gardeners must wait until the land is dry to start prepping and planting in their plots and are usually found in their gardens from mid-May to mid-October, O'Brien said.

The community garden was created in Hopkinton three years ago, after O'Brien's suggestion of one to her selectman husband was passed along to Greener Hopkinton, a town committee, which was happy to support the project. "It has just kind of grown from there," O'Brien said.

Each year at the Hopkinton garden gets better, O'Brien said. The garden was moved to a new space on the property last year because the previous year it was established in what O'Brien called "the wrong spot," resulting in some plots' falling victim to standing water. This year the garden has been limed and manured to improve soil conditions and a listserv has been created for the gardeners.

O'Brien and her husband grow greens, herbs, tomatoes, peppers and green beans in their garden. Her four young children participate, bringing over water before running off to play in the field.

At the Hopkinton garden, gardeners are required to keep the borders of their plots trampled, to create a path and to eliminate weeds.

"They need to show activity and that they are making progress toward planting and maintaining the plot, not just having it go to weeds," O'Brien said.

The garden, she added, is strictly for organic use.

"We wouldn't want to go into someone else's land with chemical fertilizer … we feel it is just a respectful thing to do," O'Brien said.

The Derry community garden at Broadview Farms on Young Road, a town conservation area, will likely be plowed and composted by Memorial Day weekend, which Conservation Commission member Peg Kinsella said works because gardeners need to wait to plant until they are without danger of frost. Gardeners are expected to have their plots cleared by Nov. 1. Extending the garden into late fall allows for squash and late crops to

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continue growing, Kinsella said.

Derry has had a community garden for 10 years and participation has grown over the last five, Kinsella said, attributing the increase to word of mouth. The garden is organized into 41 10-foot by 20-foot plots. A manual pump sits on the edge of the property to be used for watering. Only five plots remain available for this season.

Kinsella added that the increase in the garden's popularity may have stemmed from the eat-local movement and even the fact that First Lady Michelle Obama made it a point to start a garden at the White House.

"There is a lot of interest in growing your own food lately," she said.

Gardener Scott Morrison said he has also noticed an increase in participation at the Concord Community Garden.

"I think the other thing, too, is a couple years ago when food prices spiking, some people just wanted to amend that," he said.

Weed control is a top priority at the Derry garden, Kinsella said.

"When weeds from one plot blow into another plot, it's not fair to the gardeners," she said.

It is also suggested that gardeners put up fences around their plots to keep wildlife, such as woodchucks or deer, from eating their produce.

Mainly vegetables are grown on the farm, but Kinsella said many gardeners plant flowers to keep insects away, or "just because they love them and may not have a place to plant them at home." Morrison grows beneficial flowers that attract bugs, distracting them from the produce in his Concord plot. One flower in particular, nasturtium, is great at keeping bugs from squash, he said.

State Forester Oscar Johnson, overseer of the Concord Community Garden on Birch Street, which is more than 35 years old, said plots at the seven-acre state-run community garden range from 25 by 50 feet to 50 by 100 feet. The garden has a waiting list of 18 interested gardeners.

Gardeners in Concord are responsible for manuring and liming their own plots, and nothing is done by the state to prep the soil, Morrison said.

"You get the plot as is," he said. "It is up to you to determine what goes on it."

Morrison and his wife got involved with the city's community garden six years ago. The couple has a side garden at their home for growing vegetables in the summer, but they wanted to use the community garden to grow winter vegetables to stock their root cellar. The pair now tends to two side-by-side 50-foot by 100-foot plots. "We make a good team," Morrison said. "I do the grunt work, the major shoveling, raking and weeding, she does the planting and watering." Morrison said during the gardening season he and his wife tend to their plots one night a week and for several hours over the weekend.

"It's good exercise and we love being outside — both my wife and I are from the Midwest and went to college in a farming community, so we have pretty deep roots in gardening," Morrison said, adding that they enjoy being able to grow their own food, using their own produce to make salads in the summer and eating cornbread made with their late-season corn year-round.

Morrison noted gardening as very rewarding work "especially when you've grown something and you've harvested it and you eat it."

"There really is a difference between store-bought food and food you grew yourself," Morrison said.

The case for organic

Options for going pesticide-free

By Tori Loubier

On almost any given evening, Ron Christie, 55, can step out of his Brookline home onto his ¾-acre farm and have an abundance of leafy greens to choose for dinner. Spinach, lettuce, arugula, mustard greens, kale and Swiss chard are among his choices, plus, depending on the season, a selection of carrots, tomatoes, squashes, green beans, cucumbers and more. Best of all, his crops are entirely organic.

Christie, a Master Gardener Coordinator for Rockingham County through the UNH Cooperative Extension, and organizations like the UNH Coop and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of NH (NOFA-NH), are consistently offering events, educational opportunities and access to local organic spots to promote growing, planting, buying and eating organic.

Fertilize with worm poo!
Notes on composting from Celeste Philbrick Barr, education director at the Beaver Brook Association.

• Composting is the human facilitation of natural decomposition. It can be as simple as dumping leaves, garden and kitchen waste into a pile and letting it take a couple of years to break down, or it can be moved along by people mixing the ingredients, stirring the pile and making sure it stays warm and moist.

• A basic collection device should be a cubic meter square to build up a mass and retain heat.

• A compost pile is a mix of two to three parts dried "brown" carbon-rich material to one part "green" nitrogen-rich kitchen or garden waste. Layer these when possible to keep the pile full of air space. Earthworms and microbes will move into the pile, but you can jump-start the process in spring when the temperature remains over 50 degrees by adding a pail of fresh manure to the pile.

• Composting makes sense because: It saves you money by burning less fuel to haul trash; when done properly it is odorless and removes smelly decomposing matter from your trash cans; 25 percent of your waste is compostable; you gain free fertilizer and soil amendment; when used as mulch, compost conserves water and protects plant roots.

• Don't compost: Plants treated with pesticides/herbicides; animal by-products, such as meat, chicken, lard, bones, cheese or milk; pet waste of non-vegetarian animals; mayonnaise, salad dressing or peanut butter (they are slow to degrade); inorganic trash, such as plastic, foil, metals; colored newspaper; chemicals such as pesticides; gasoline, diesel or oil; human waste, or barbecue charcoal

• Barr will be teaching **The Wonders of Composting** at Beaver Brook Maple Hill Farm, 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, on Friday, May 13, from 9 to 11 a.m.

What is organic?

Generally, organic foods are produced using methods that do not involve pesticides and chemical fertilizers, do not contain genetically modified organisms, and are not processed using irradiation, industrial solvents or chemical food additives.

"The word 'organic' can be confusing and is probably used in a misleading manner for the sake of marketing," said Jen Quinlivan, NOFA-NH bulk order coordinator and Winter Conference media coordinator. Quinlivan references the dictionary, which states that "organic" means ultimately of biological origin. "Organic labeling is a tricky issue. Just because something is labeled organic or natural, [I say] buyer beware. Ask questions," Quinlivan said. "To be a certified organic producer entails following a specific set of guidelines on the state and national levels."

Organic farming and gardening have grown significantly in the past 10 years, according to both Christie and Quinlivan. Christie said his farm, Living Earth, began with a 30x30-foot area and has doubled every year since then.

Your own organic

Your path to organic growing can start with something as small as a single plant.

Christie suggests you begin by studying the topic, taking advantage of local resources like the UNH Coop and related websits. "The more you know the better and greater chance of success," he said.

"The second thing is to know your soil," Christie said. "Get a soil test. So many skip that step and that's the first thing you need to do." A soil test tells you how much organic matter is already in your soil, as well as what its texture is, and how much sand, silt, clay and nutrients are in it. According to Christie, those who want a soil test can go online, read instructions, send two cups of soil to the Coop and have results back in three weeks. "Without pesticides ... I have to be preventative," Christie said. "Knowing your soil beforehand helps with that."

"Usually people don't jump from full-on pesticide-laden practices to fully organic. [Instead,] they are looking for transitioning from chemical fertilizers and pesticides to organic/natural ones. Start a compost pile, use locally sourced composted manures or fish or kelp liquid fertilizers ... those are a nice organic jumping point," Quinlivan said, adding that NOFA-NH offers bulk ordering twice a year for those wanting to buy soil amendments, organic pesticides, potting soil and other supplies.

"Something to consider is giving up the battle with lawn weeds like dandelions, which are actually a valuable edible and medicinal herb. Lawn chemicals can run off into the garden and can be generally detrimental to children and pets who play on the lawn," she said.

Get greener

Events, classes and organizations for gardeners

From classes that tell you how to grow better greenery to cooking and home-remedy classes that tell you what to do with your harvest, here are a few groups to increase your green know-how.

Gardening events and classes

• **Gardening with Perennials and Native Plants** Beaver Brook Maple Hill Farm, 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, on Friday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. A workshop designed to give gardeners fundamental skills to create sustainable perennial gardens in a natural, local landscape. Includes site analysis and design. Bring photographs, plans or sketches of a garden you would like to create. Cost is $5. Call 465-7787 to register.

• **Wings of Knowledge: Wild Urban Plants** on Tuesday, May 3, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Library Living Room, NHTI, 31 College Drive in Concord. This presenataion featuring Dr. Peter Del Tredici considers uninvited plants and how to identify them. The event is free and open to the public and will feature light refreshments. Call 271-7186.

• **Celebrate Spring** Rolling Green Nursery, Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland, on Saturday, May 7. A celebration of owner Rick Simpson's 35th year in horticulture. Open house of the new 5,000-square-foot glass greenhouse. Proven Winner expert Val Rollins will offer tips to customers. Plan your patio containers, flower gardens and hanging baskets. Call 436-2732.

• **Yes, Yes You Can!** Celery Stick Café at the Concord Cooperative Market, 24 South Main St., on Tuesday, May 10, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Preserve the taste and quality of summer produce from your garden or local farm stand throughout the winter months. Learn about home canning. Topics will include the use of proper canning equipment, techniques for canning fruits and vegetables safely, using up-to-date recipes, and resources to keep you current. Call 225-6840 or e-mail classes@concordfoodcoop.coop.

• **The Wonders of Composting** Beaver Brook Maple Hill Farm, 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, on Friday, May 13, from 9 to 11 a.m. Taught by Celeste Philbrick Barr, education director. Learn how to compost in your back yard, how to accelerate your composting process and how to troubleshoot issues you may encounter. Some hands-on activity and a review of various compost collection systems will take place. Dress for going outside. $5 suggested donation. Call 465-7787.

• **2011 Garden Workshop Series** UNH Cooperative Extension, Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, on Saturdays, May 14, June 4, Aug. 20 and Sept. 24, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Admission is $15 per workshop per family. Explore topics including weeds, pests, permaculture, extending growing seasons and closing your garden for winter. Register by contacting Ron Christie at the UNH Cooperative Extension Rockingham County office at 679-5616.

• **Plant Sale** Florence Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua, on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale will feature hundreds of perennials, shade plants, sun plants, herbs, vegetable plants and indoor plants. There will be native dogwood tree seedlings and Proven Winner annuals. Raffle tickets can be purchased for a chance to win a garden fountain, rain barrel, handcrafted stepping stones, planted garden container and a compost bin. Homemade baked goods will be available for sale. Call 883-0015 or e-mail nashuahistorical@comcast.net.

• **34th Annual Plant Sale** Community House Lawn, Milford Oval, Union Street, Milford, on Saturday, May 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Milford Garden Club members will provide perennial plants from their gardens. Local vendors will offer vegetables, annuals, perennials, garden-related items, educational exhibits, soaps, ceramics, tea and other crafts. There will be a bake table, raffle table and kids' craft corner. Visit www.milfordgardenclub.org.

• **How to Grow Your Own Food** St. James Church, 646 DW Highway, Merrimack, on Tuesday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m. Margaret Hagen is known for her weekly appearances on the WMUR-TV Channel 9 news segment "Grow It Green." She will provide information on how to choose a garden site, till the soil, fertilize, choose crops and varieties that do well in New Hampshire, plant them and grow them to harvest. There is a $5 guest fee and everyone is welcome. Visit www.merrimackgardenclub.org.

Helpful organizations

• **Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire** (224-5022, nofanh.org) offers workshops and classes on gardening and farming. Call 224-5022 or e-mail info@nofanh.org.

• **UNH Cooperative Extension** (877-398-4769, extension.unh.edu) offers classes on landscaping, gardening and amateur forestry. See website for schedule. The Cooperative Extension's Family, Home and Garden Center has an information line to offer answers to garden questions Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

All about herbs

• **Home Herbalist Series** Concord Community Education, 170 Warren St., Concord, Thursdays, April 28-June 2, 6-9 p.m. Includes "Brain Boosting Herbs," "Strong Bones for Life," "Managing Chronic Pain," "Healthy Skin with Herbs," "Spring Forward with a Spring Cleanse" and "Herbal Allies for Weight Loss." Tuition is $24 plus $5 materials fee per class Register by calling 225-0804 or visit www.classesforlife.com

• **Seaweed as Food and Medicinie** Herbal Energetics, 32 Bay Hill Road., Northfield, Saturday, April 30, 6-8 p.m. Larch Hanson, with more than 40 years experience harvesting seaweed on the coast of Maine, will lead a discussion and cooking demonstration using seaweed as food and medicine. Cost is $35. Visit www.nofanh.org or e-mail nhhn@nofanh.org

• **History and Cultivation of Culinary Herbs** Beaver Brook Maple Hill Farm, 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, Fri., May 6, from 9 a.m. to noon. A history of herb origins, cultivation and incorporation into cooking and medicine. Cost is $5. Call 465-7787 to register.

• **Cooking & Gardening with Herbs: slide show & cooking demo** Granite State Cabinetry, 384 Route 101, Bedford, Wednesday, May 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. Liz Barbour, chef, instructor, and founder of the Creative Feast, will show how to cook and garden with herbs. Learn about ornamental and edible plants, how to plan ahead and how to cook using recipes featuring fresh herb combinations that you can purchase and grow in your own garden. Cost is $25. Visit www.nofanh.org or e-mail nhhn@nofanh.org

• **Growing Mushrooms in the Forest: Log & Stump Inoculation** Wichland Woods, South Street (off Route 9), Nelson, Sunday, May 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn how to grow mushrooms utilizing agroforestry models. In this hands-on course, participants will inoculate logs and stumps and review various ways to grow mushrooms using wood in the forest. Leave with a shiitake or oyster log that you will inoculate during the course. Includes potluck lunch and mushroom feast. Cost is $45. Visit www.nofanh.org or e-mail nhhn@nofanh.org.

• **Herbs for Stress & Energy** Celery Stick Café at the Concord Cooperative Market, 24 South Main St., Tuesday, May 24, 6-7 p.m. Learn about herbs like holy basil and ashwagandha that help your body withstand stress better to keep your mood and energy levels high. Call 225-6840, sign up at the store, or e-mail classes@concordfoodcoop.coop. Visit www.concordfoodcoop.coop.

• **Spring Herb & Garden Day** Canterbury Shaker Village, 288 Shaker Road, Canterbury, Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nine herbal workshops, garden tours, an organic luncheon, live entertainment and an herbal marketplace. Admission is $17. Visit www.nofanh.org/herbday.

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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT APRIL 28 - MAY 4, 2011, AND BEYOND

Friday, April 29

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discover Center in Concord will hold Aerospacefest 2011 today and tomorrow (Saturday, April 30) featuring demonstrations, speakers and exhibits about space sciences and aeronautics. Officials from NASA, the FAA, the New Hampshire Aviation and Space Education Council and the New Hampshire Astronomical Society will be on hand to meet with attendees. The event will also include helicopter rides, rocket launching, games and a new planetarium show as well as the announcement of Astronomy Bowl 2011 and scholarship winners. See www.starhop.com.

Friday, April 29

See Tracy Turnblad dance her way onto the Corny Collins show in *Hairspray*, the musical, which begins its run at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester, today. The show will run Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through May 14 (which will also feature a 2 p.m. matinee). Tickets cost $15 to $45. Visit www.palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

Friday, April 29

"Voices of Light," an event that features a performance by the New Hampshire Master Chorale and Orchestra and a screening of the silent film *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (a film from 1928), will take place today at 8 p.m. at Centerpoint Church, 20 N. State St. in Concord. Tickets cost $25 and can be purchased at www.nhmasterchorale.org, at the door or at Gibson's Bookstore, 27 S. Main St. in Concord.

Sunday, May 1

Bowl for a cause at the "Strike" Out Breast Cancer Candlepin Bowling event to benefit Athena's Cup (www.athenascup.org) on Sunday, May 1, from 2 to 7 p.m. at Leda Lanes in Nashua. For $15 per bowler, you'll get an hour of bowling, pizza and a drink. Bring a group to bowl as a team or get matched with a team at the event. Bring three bras for donation and receive a free raffle ticket. To register, e-mail strikeoutbreastcancer@hotmail.com.

Sunday, May 1

Keep the Earth Day celebrations going at the Celebrate the Earth Festival today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, 18 Highlawn Road in Warner. The day will highlight the exhibit "Along the Basket Trail," about the basket-making traditions of New Hampshire, with demonstrations and a presentation about Abenaki women by Sherry Gould from 1 to 3 p.m. The day will also include a composting presentation, a guided tour of Medicine Woods and more. See www.indianmuseum.org or call 456-2600 for admission prices and directions.

Free: A look at the future of art

The Queen City Art Attack will be held Saturday, April 30, at 1 p.m. in Victory Park in downtown Manchester. The outdoor event will feature works (priced under $50) by young artists as well as live music and more. See queencityartattack.com.

Cheap: Fish Festival & Dash and Splash

For a mere $3 per person (or $6 per family) head to the Amoskeag Fishways, 6 Fletcher St. in Manchester, 626-3474, www.amoskeagfishways.org, on Thursday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a day of fish fun. Officials from U.S. Fish and Wildlife will deliver salmon to the fish ladder at 10 a.m., and the day will include fish-related crafts and games.

Splurge: A meal with mom

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8 — just around the corner, so make those brunch or dinner reservations now. One place offering a special meal: the Bedford Village Inn off Route 101 in Bedford (www.bedfordvillageinn.com). The Inn will serve a four-course fixed-price meal in the Dining Room from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. for $55 per person ($29 for children ages 4 to 10), a grand buffet in the Great Hall for $39 per person ($19.95 for children) and a la carte specials in the Tavern from 2 to 6 p.m. See the menus online. (Know of other Mother's Day specials? Let us know at food@hippopress.com.)

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By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

After watching the film *Schindler's List*, Stephan H. Lewy felt for the first time the desire to share the story of his life. Lewy, who now lives in Manchester, hoped that by talking to kids in schools he could teach them about hate and discrimination. Lewy knows first hand what can happen if such hatred goes unchecked.

Lewy was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1925. His father was Jewish and his mother Protestant. Only a few years after his birth, his mother died. Since his father was unable to look after both his business and his son, Lewy was placed in an orphanage with about 100 other Jewish children. Over the years as he grew up, Hitler came to power.

In 1938 came Kristallnacht, or "Night of the Broken Glass," in which synagogues were destroyed and thousands of Jewish men were arrested. Lewy and his fellow orphans were locked in their synagogue for several days. When they were released and saw the carnage around them, they knew life would never be the same again.

Lewy, his father and his stepmother booked passage to America, but because of his father's high blood pressure — a result of beatings he received at the hands of the Nazis — he failed the physical and they were not issued visas.

Neighboring countries such as France, Denmark and Holland were accepting refugee children, so Lewy was able to cross into France with a group of about 40 other people. When he left Germany, however, he lost his citizenship and became stateless. The war broke out shortly after, and Lewy lost touch with his family for three years.

When he finally did reach them again, they had been able to escape to Massachusetts and sent for Lewy. But his visa was declined by the State Department. In desperation, Lewy's stepmother wrote a letter to the President of the United States, writing that Lewy would be America's best soldier if he was allowed into the country. Somehow it worked, and months later Lewy reunited with his family.

He registered for the draft when he turned 18 and was ultimately sent back to Germany as a member of General Patton's Army with the 6th Armored Division. He was one of the first Americans to liberate the Buchenwald concentration camp. It is an experience he will never forget.

These are experiences he has described to about 2,200 kids around the state. Such work has earned him an honorary doctorate from Daniel Webster College. It has also inspired a professor from the college to pen a play about Lewy's life.

A staged reading of Tom Anastasi's *Surviving Evil: The Holocaust through the story of Stephan H. Lewy* was first given at the Palace Theatre in May 2005. Since then there have been several productions. The newest will be held on Monday, May 2, and Wednesday, May 4, at Daniel Webster College.

"It was an honor to write it," Anastasi said. "It was a labor of love."

To write the play, in which Anastasi wanted to balance entertainment with reality, he spent hours listening to Lewy's stories. He also borrowed a photo album, which, along with video and an original score, make up the multi-media aspect of the performance. Some of the video of the liberation of Buchenwald contains graphic images and so the play is rated PG-13. Anastasi said he, Director Alan D. Kaplan and others from the Manchester Community Theatre Players debated whether to include the images. But in the end felt they were pertinent.

"We didn't want kids to just think that 'Oh, the Nazis were just bad people'," Anastasi said. "We wanted them to realize they were evil and horrible."

One of the points the production makes is that societies allow Holocausts to happen. They do not occur overnight but over years. This is one of the things that motivated Lewy to speak.

"After I finish, I hope kids won't use the words, 'I hate you' anymore," Lewy said.

He went on to say that he doesn't care about the color of someone's skin or their features. He wants kids to respect everyone they meet. He said it is perfectly fine and normal to disagree with someone but there is never a reason to hate. He said of all his audiences, eighth-graders are the best.

Anastasi has seen the power of Lewy's talks. He said once at Manchester High School West there were hundreds of kids surrounding him — kids whose attention spans are ever fleeting — and you could have heard a pin drop. They hung on his every word.

After the production, in which Anastasi plays the role of Lewy, acting as a narrator to the life that unfolds through the multi-media production, the real Stephan Lewy will be there for a question-and-answer segment.

Stephan H. Lewy. Courtesy photo.

Lewy, who is 86 and in great shape, knows he will not live forever. Recently the last American soldier to fight in World War I died. Time marches on, which is why Lewy knows he must share his story.

Surviving Evil: The Holocaust through the story of Stephan H. Lewy
When: Monday, May 2, and Wednesday, May 4, at 7 p.m.
Where: Daniel Webster College, 20 University Drive, Nashua, 577-6000, www.dwc.edu
Tickets: Cost $7 ($5 for students)
Info: Call 620-8553

20 Theater
Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com

22 Art
Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

24 Classical
Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

THEATER LISTINGS

• The Acting Loft
670 North Commercial Street, Manchester in the Jefferson Mill Building.666-5999, actingloft.org
• Actorsingers
219 Lake St., Nashua, 889-9691, actorsingers.org
• Adams Memorial Opera House
29 W. Broadway, Derry, 437-0505, derryarts.org
• Amato Family Center for the Performing Arts at Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002 ext. 2, svbgc.com
• Andy's Summer Playhouse
Wilton, 654-2613, andyssummerplayhouse.org
• Anselmian Abbey Players
Dana Center, 641-7700
• Bedford Off Broadway
Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford, 557-1805, bedfordoffbroadway.com
• Bedford Town Hall
70 Bedford Center Rd., Bedford
• Bedford Youth Performing Company
155 Route 101, Bedford, www.bypc.org, 472-3894.
• Belle Voci
bellevoci.org, 848-7986
• Capitol Center for the Arts
44 Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
• Concord Chorale
224-0770, concordchorale.org
• Concord City Auditorium
2 Prince St., Concord, 228-2793, www.theaudi.org
• Concord Community Players
224-4905, communityplayersofconcord.org
• The Dana Center
100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu
• The Hampstead Theatre
1355 Suncook Valley Hwy., Ctr. Barnstead, 1-800-619-5302, www.hampsteadstage.org
• The Majestic Theatre
281 Cartier St., Manchester, 669-7469, majestictheatre.net
• Manchester Community Music School
2291 Elm St., 644-4548, mcmusicschool.org
• Manchester Community Theatre and Second Stage
Professional Co.
698 Beech St., Manchester, 627-8787
• Milford Area Players
673-2258, milfordareaplayers.org
• Muchachos Drum & Bugle Corps
PO Box 5197, Manchester, 674-7650, www.muchachos.org
• Music and Drama Company (MADCo.)
Londonderry, madco.org
• My Act
myact.org, 429-3950
• Nashua Theatre Guild
PO Box 137, Nashua, 03061, 320-2530
nashuatheatreguild.org
• New Thalian Players
newthalianplayers.org, 666-6466
• Nashua Community College Performing
Arts Club (PAC)
505 Amherst St., Nashua, 428-3544
• The Palace Theatre
80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
• Peacock Players
14 Court St., Nashua, 886-7000, peacockplayers.org
• Pittsfield Players
6 Depot St., Pittsfield, 435-8852, pittsfieldplayers.com
• Profile Chorus
profilechorus.org
• School of Theater Arts at The Amato Center for Performing Arts
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002 ext. 20
• Seacoast Repertory Theatre
125 Bow St., Portsmouth, 433-4472
• SNHU Drama Club
2500 North River Rd., Hooksett
• Stage One Productions Dinner Theatre at the Chateau Restaurant
201 Hanover St., Manchester 669-5511, stageoneprod.com
• Yellow Taxi Productions
yellowtaxiproductions.org

• ***HOUSE OF SEVEN GABLES*** will be performed through May 8 at the Pontine Theatre's West End Studio, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Performances are Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost $24. Visit www.pontine.org or call 436-6660.

• ***ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST*** will be performed through May 8 at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sun., May 1, at 7 p.m. and Sun., May 8, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost $14 ($12 for students). Call 436-8213 or visit www.playersring.org.

• ***CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS*** will be performed on Thurs., April 28, Fri., April 29 and Sat., April 30, at 8 p.m. and Sun., May 1, at 2 p.m. at the Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua. Due to strong language and subject matter, audience discretion is strongly advised. Tickets cost $15 ($12 for seniors/students/military). Visit www.gltne.org.

• ***GUYS AND DOLLS*** will be performed on Thurs., April 28, Fri., April 29 and Sat., April 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Pine Hill Waldorf School Auditorium at High Mowing School, 222 Isaac Frye Highway, Wilton. Call 654-2391 or visit www.highmowing.org.

• ***CRIMES OF THE HEART*** will be performed on Fri., April 29 and Sat., April 30, at the Bedford Olde Town Hall, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. Tickets cost $12 ($10 for seniors and students). Call 224-1837 or visit www.steppingstoneplayers.webs.com.

• ***HAIRSPRAY*** will be performed Fri., April 29, Sat., April 30, Fri., May

On stage

Imagination is on the move

Disney Junior's Emmy Award-winning Imagination Movers will perform their interactive show on Saturday, April 30, at 4:30 p.m. at the Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester. The group, which started the popular TV series on Disney Junior, began their tour in their native state of Louisiana and will end up in New York City in early May. The fast-paced excitement of the show encourages audience interaction. Imagination Movers signed with Walt Disney Records in 2008 and has sold more than 100,000 albums. Tickets cost $25.50, $35.50 and $45.50. Visit www.ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000. Imagination Movers. Courtesy photo.

Curtain Calls

(Left to right): Mitch Fortier as Ellis, Meredith Borgioli as Ella and Ryan Edlinger as Wesley. Andrea Stasio photo.

• **Starving on stage:** The new production by Ghostlight Theater Co. of New England will remind audience members that art often imitates life. Sam Shepard wrote *Curse of the Starving Class* in the 1970s when the U.S. was undergoing a major oil crisis and there were huge economic threats to the working class. Sound familiar? "The one thing that really strikes me is that we're dealing with many of the same issues today," said Mariah Sefel, producer. Sefel said there is a great line in the play about how it is a curse that we often pass down our problems to the next generation. But she said she hoped the play would provide inspiration to many who are going through difficult times, as it shows people have been through them before and survived. *Curse of the Starving Class* will be performed Thursday, April 28, Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 1, at 2 p.m. at the Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua. It will be the first Ghostlight production directed by William McGregor, who is well known in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The production includes the strong language and adult subject matter from the original Shepard script, so audience discretion is advised. Sefel said the most challenging aspect of the play from a production standpoint was the live lamb, which was donated by Karen Grybko of Maple Lane Farms in Lyndeborough. "Shepard always puts one or two elements that make the play difficult to produce," Sefel said. Looks like this play won't be baaaaaaa-d. Tickets cost $15 ($12 for seniors, students and military). Visit www.gltne.org.

• **Glimpse of life through music:** It is an idea Manchester actress Laura Prior has been considering for two years. Prior said the world of musical theater is a crazy one in which people can spontaneously burst into song. Yet, despite this fact, many of the songs sung in musical theater are incredibly poignant and capture many of the complex emotions we feel every day but have difficulty expressing. Prior wanted to put together a musical revue full of the best of these songs that would capture a glimpse of life. Not only has her idea come to fruition but she has also teamed up with a good cause. *Vignettes of Life*, a new musical revue, will be held on Saturday, May 7, at 7 p.m. at Studio 99, Mechanic St., Nashua, and Sunday, May 8, at 1 p.m. at the Adams Memorial Opera House, 29 West Broadway, Derry. Tickets cost $10. Proceeds from the show will benefit Manchester Habitat for Humanity. "I really liked the work they were doing in the area," Prior said of her reason for collaborating with the organization. The revue comprises 18 songs, sung in solos, duets and groups, capturing different emotions. Visit www.vignettesoflife.org.

—Adam Coughlin

On stage

Hawthorne in Portsmouth

Greg Gathers and Marquerite Mathews are at it again. The co-directors of the Pontine Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, have created an adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's 19th-century romance *The House of the Seven Gables*. Shows are through May 8 and are held at 8 p.m. on Fridays, 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets cost $24. Visit www.pontine.org or call 436-6660. Toy Theatre Figures for Pontine Theatre's original stage adaptation of *The House of the Seven Gables*. Designed and created by Pontine Co-Director Greg Gathers. "Phobe Pyncheon in the Garden." Courtesy photo.

6, Sat., May 7, Fri., May 13, and Sat., May 14, at 7:30 p.m., and Sun., May 1, Sun., May 8, and Sat., May 14, at 2 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost $15 to $45. Visit www.palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• **IMAGINATION MOVERS** will perform on Sat., April 30, at 4:30 p.m. at the Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester. Tickets cost $25.50, $35.50 and $45.50. Visit www.ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000.

• ***PUSS IN BOOTS*** will be performed April 30-May 15 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Performances are Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Visit www.seacoastrep.org or call 433-4472.

• ***IL TROVATORE*** Met Opera in HD on Sat., April 30, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost $25 ($20 for students). Call 924-7585.

• ***IL TROVATORE*** Met Opera in HD on Sat., April 30, at 1 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 South Main St., Concord. Tickets cost $26 ($22 for seniors, $15 for students). Call 225-1111 or visit www.ccanh.com.

• ***SURVIVING EVIL:*** *The Holocaust through the story of Stephan H. Lewy* will be performed on Mon., May 2, and Wed., May 4, at 7 p.m. at Daniel Webster College, 20 University Drive, Nashua. Tickets cost $7 ($5 for students). Call 620-8553.

• ***HARLEQUINADE*** One-act comdey written and directed by Stephen Chalmers will be performed on Fri., May 6, and Sat., May 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Tickets cost $5. E-mail rsota@svbgc.org.

• **12th ANNUAL GALA EVENT** Fundraiser for the Palace Theatre will be held Thurs., May 5, at 6-9 p.m. at the Manchester Country Club, 180 S River Road, Bedford. Tickets cost $75. Visit www.palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• ***HARVEY*** will be performed on Fri., May 6, and Sat., May 7, at 8 p.m. and Sun., May 8, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Call 668-5466 or visit www.communityplayersofconcord.org.

• **AFTERNOON TEA AND PERFORMANCE** Northern Ballet Theatre Dance Centre will perform on Sat., May 7, 2-4 p.m. at the Northern Ballet Theatre Dance Center, 36 Arlington St., Nashua. Tickets cost $10 ($5 for students). Call 889-8408 or visit www.nbtdc.com.

• ***HANSEL & GRETEL*** will be performed on Fri., May 6, and Sat., May 7, at 7:30 p.m. and Sun., May 8, at 2 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Cathedral Auditorium, 166 Pearl St., Manchester. Tickets cost $12 ($10 for seniors, $8 for children under 17). Call 669-7469 or visit www.majestictheatre.net.

• ***VIGNETTES OF LIFE*** A musical revue will be held on Sat., May 7, at 7 p.m. at Studio 99, Mechanic St., Nashua and Sun., May 8, at 1 p.m. at the Adams Memorial Opera House, 29 West Broadway, Derry. Tickets cost $10. Proceeds benefit Manchester Habitat for Humanity. Visit www.

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local color

• **Senate talking art:** The Senate Finance Committee has reversed earlier efforts by the House to dismantle the Department of Cultural Resources and transfer its services to other agencies. On Friday, April 15, Department of Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod made a roughly 15-minute presentation to the Senate Finance Committee. Marilyn Hoffman, president of New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts, said the Committee's words were a positive sign but nothing was final yet. Hoffman also mentioned there has been no discussion about re-installing the State Arts Council, which the House all but eliminated by removing most of the governor's recommended $427,000 budget. "The nature of the Senate has changed," Hoffman said. "Some of our really good friends are no longer there. So we will try to make new friends."

• **Big success:** Manchester's first-ever pop-up gallery was a huge success, according to one of its organizers. The first event at White Flag Gallery, which is the city's new mobile gallery, was held on Thursday, April 14, at the now vacant 941 Elm St., which was the former home of SOPHA. The show titled "The Big Takeover" was such a hit another business owner is thinking of holding the next one. James Chase of the Manchester Arts Commission said roughly 600 people passed through the door over the 4½-hour event and there were 300 works of art by 90 artists on exhibition. A lot of downtown businesses owners came to check it out as well. The venture was a collaboration between the Manchester Arts Commission, the New Hampshire Institute of Art and the website goodgood Manchester.

• **New faculty member:** Artist Elizabeth Johansson of Hancock has joined the faculty of the Sharon Arts Center School of Art and Craft, 457 Route 123, Sharon, and will teach "Drawing the Still Life," a full-day Saturday workshop available on Saturday, May 14, and Saturday, June 4. This is not Johansson's first stint at the school as she used to teach drawing classes many years ago. If any of her students want to see samples of her work they will only have visit the Currier Museum of Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, and the DeCordova Museum, where Johansson's art is on permanent display. Call 924-7256.

—Adam Coughlin

vignettesoflife.org.

• ***WINNIE THE POOH*** will be performed on Saturdays, May 7 and May 14, at 11 a.m. and Sundays, May 8 and May 15, at 1 p.m. at the Garrison Players Arts Center, Route 4 in Rollinsford. Tickets cost $8. Visit www.garrisonplayers.org or call 750-4278.

• ***HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2*** will be performed Tues., May 10, Wed., May 11, Fri., May 20 and Sat., May 21 at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Call 668-5588 or visit www.palacetheatre.org.

Auditions/workshops

• ***JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT*** Auditions will be held on Mon., May 2, at 7 p.m. and Sun., May 8, at p.m. at The Majestic Theatre, 281 Cartier St., Manchester. Shows will be performed in mid-July. Auditions are open for adults and youth. Visit www.majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

Classes for kids

• **YOUTH THEATER CLASSES** Peacock Players are accepting registrations for session-two classes. Mondays: Two by Two Theatre 10-11 a.m., ages 2-3. Musical Theatre I 4-5 p.m., ages 7-9. Musical Theatre II 5-6 p.m., ages 10-14. Tuesdays: Peacock Playhouse 10-11 a.m., ages 4-5. Kinderdrama 4-5 p.m., ages 5-6. Kinderdrama SR 5-6 p.m., ages 7-9. Wednesdays: Theatre Dance III 4-5 p.m., ages 14-18. Musical Theatre II 5-6 p.m., ages 10-14. Thursdays: Kinderdrama SR 4-5 p.m., ages 7-9. Art of the Actor 5-6 p.m., ages 10-13. Fridays: Theatre Dance I 4-5 p.m., ages 7-10. Theatre Dance II 5-6 p.m., ages 10-13. All classes cost $80 for the six-week session. Visit www.peacockplayers.org or call Education Manager Holly Countie at 816-2695.

• **MUSICAL THEATER SUMMER CAMP** will be held at the Acting Loft, 670 North Commercial St., Manchester. Camp runs Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Each session costs $350. Session I: GLEE, July5-July 15; Session 2: The Acting Loft's Got Talent, July 18-July 29; Session 3: VS: Classic Against Contemporary, Aug. 1-Aug. 12. Call 666-5999 or e-mail chris@actingloft.org.

• **SUMMER CAMPS** The Henniker Youth Theatre will hold camps at John Stark Regional High School, 618 North Stark Highway, Weare. Camps include: July 11-July 15, Amy Beach Stories (ages 6-16) at 9 a.m.- noon and Friday afternoon and evening; July 18-July 22, 1st Week of Fiddler, Jr., at 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; July 25-July 30, 2nd Week of Fiddler Jr., at 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday and Saturday evenings; Aug. 1-Aug. 5, Short Films and Improvisations at 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday evening. Camp costs around $200. Call Tom Dunn at 568-5102 or e-mail dunn.t@comcast.net.

• **SUMMER CAMP** Riverbend School of Theater Arts will hold a summer camp June 27 through July 8, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Classes cost $310. Visit www.svbgc.org.

• **SUMMER CAMPS** The Garrison Players will offer two sessions of its Children's Summer Theatre Camp program at the Garrison Players Arts Center, Route 4 in Rollinsford. Session 1, for ages 6-13, will be held July 11-July 22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Session 2, for ages 11-16, will be held July 25-Aug. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is $400 per student. Call 516-4919 or visit www.garrisonplayers.org.

• **SUMMER CAMP** Enrollment now open for The Majestic's daytime summer theater camps. Camps include: Splish Splash, July 11-July 16, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., cost $100; The Magical Land of Oz, July 18-July 30, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., costs $150, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., costs $275; Night at the Wax Museum, July 31-Aug. 27, Sunday-Wednesday, 6-8:30 p.m. Visit www.majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

• **THE DRAMA HOUSE** A theatrical workshop for ages 13-17. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Springfield College, 500 Commercial St., Manchester. Call Robert Santiago at 703-9091 or visit www.latinosonthemovene.com.

• **SUMMER CAMPS** and an adult performance intensive through NH Theatre Project in Portsmouth. Visit www.nhtheatreproject.org or call 431-6644, ext. 4.

• **TEN-MINUTE PLAYS** by NH playwrights wanted for Alchemists Workshop "Ten Minute Play site," supported by the McInnich Foundation. Visit www.alchemistsworkshop.org/tenminuteplayzone.html or e-mail hennikeryouththeatre@gmail.com.

• **YOUNG ARTISTS AT PLAY** summer theater camps for grades 1-12 at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Lowell, Mass., 978-654-7550, merrimackrep.org/education/yaap.aspx.

ART LISTINGS

Art events

• **ART CONCORD** Art event highlighting art in Concord will be held on Thurs., April 28, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at participating galleries. Visit www.concordnhchamber.com for a list or call 228-1193 or 224-2508.

• **ART ATTACK** A night of creativity for teens by teens on Fri., April 29, 6 p.m.-midnight at the Sharon Arts School of Art & Craft, 457 NH Route 123, Sharon. Call 924-7256 ext. 3 or e-mail alexandra@sharonarts.org.

• **QUEEN CITY ART ATTACK** Second biannual art and music festival for young artists by young artists on Sat., April 30, 1-5 p.m. in Victory Park at the corner of Pine St. and Amherst St. in Manchester. The event is free and open to the public. Visit www.nhia.edu or call 623-0313.

• **FIRST THURSDAYS** The Currier Museum of Art is open late from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. first Thursday of each month with special programs including live music, lectures and film, at 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 ext. 108 or see www.currier.org for tickets. Thursday, May 5, the event is related to Cinco de Mayo: live music by Veronica Robles and her mariachi band and Sangria and snack specials at the café.

• **SPRING INTO WARNER** Learn about the town's arts and the artisans on Sat., May 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Main Street in Warner. E-mail siw11@kearsargechamber.org or

visit www.kearsargechamber.org.

Gallery openings and events

• **TWO SPRING EXHIBITS** Works of UNH Law students, staff and faculty and a solo exhibit featuring underwater photography of Finis Williams through May 13 at the University of New Hampshire School of Law, 2 White St., Concord. Gallery hours are weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and weekends, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be a reception on Thurs., April 28, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Call 228-1541.

• **JUST MY IMAGINATION** Multi artist exhibition through July 15 at The Gallery at 100 Market, 100 Market St., Portsmouth. There will be an opening reception on Friday, April 29, 5-7 p.m. Call 436-2818.

• **DOMINIQUE BOUTAUD & MOE KIRK** Works of these two artists will be on display April 30 through June 3 at the Lawrence Library Art Gallery, 15 Main St., Pepperell, Mass. There will be an opening reception Sat., April 30, noon-2 p.m. Visit www.lawrencelibrary.org or call 978-433-0330.

• **THE FIFTH ANNUAL CAPITOL KIDS SPRING ART SHOW** will be held May 3-May 15 in downtown Concord. Artists, 18 years old or younger, should visit www.mainstreetconcord.com. Visit www.imaginationvillage.com or call 225-1060.

In the galleries

• **2011 SENIOR B.A. & B.F.A. EXHIBITION & 2011 M.F.A. THESIS EXHIBITION** will be on exhibit at the Museum of Art at UNH-Durham. Call 862-3712 or visit www.unh.edu/moa.

• **25th ANNUAL OMER T. LASSONDE JURIED EXHIBITION** Multi-artist exhibit will be held through April 29 at the Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery, 136 State St., Portsmouth. Visit www.nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230.

• **AFRICAN BEAD EXHIBIT** will be on display through May 21 at the Bead Bush Studio, 43 Mt. Delight Road, Deerfield. Hours are Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be an open house on Fri., May 13, 5-8 p.m. Visit www.beadbush.com.

• **ALUMNI SHOW** Work 82 alumni of the Boston Institute of Fine Arts MFA program will be on display through April 30 at the Hargate Gallery at St. Paul's School, 325 Pleasant St., Concord. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 229-4644.

• **AMERICAN TAPESTRY BIENNIAL 8** will run through May 1 at the American Textile History Museum, 491 Dutton St., Lowell, Mass. Visit www.athm.org or call 978-441-0400.

• **ART ON THE WALL** Work of Bob LaPree will be on display at Manchester City Hall through April. Call 582-3256.

• **BARBARA COWAN** Work will be on display through May at the Seacoast Artist Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. The gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit www.seacoastartist.org.

• **BILL GILL** April artist of the month at the Wilton Library, 7 Forest Road, Wilton. Call 654-2581 or visit www.wiltonlibrarynh.org.

• **BLACK & WHITE** Multi-artist exhibit on display through May 17 in Gallery 6 at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. No admission fee is required to view the gallery only. Regular admission applies for families who wish to explore the rest of the museum. Call 742-2002 or visit www.childrens-museum.org.

• **BONNIE GUERCIO** Work will be on display through April at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Call 589-4610.

• **COME SPRING** New exhibit at artstream, 56 North Main St., Rochester, through April 30. Visit www.artstreamstudios.com or call 330-0333.

• **CYN DAHLSTROM** Work will be on display through April at RE/MAX Properties, 2 Ash St., Hollis. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call Pat Hurd at 882-1503 or e-mail phurd1503@aol.com.

• **DEPENDING UPON THE NATURE OF THE BEAST** New works by Amanda Laurel Atkins on display through May 2 at Three Graces, 105 Market St., Portsmouth. Call 436-1988 or visit www.threegracesgallery.com.

• **DIG IT: LOCALLY GROWN ART** A juried show for members of the Womens Caucus for Arts/NH will be on display through May 26 at the Framer's Market, 1301 Elm St., Manchester. Call 668-6989.

• **ERICK INGRAHAM** Work will be on display through May 31 at New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Route 101A, Milford. Open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit www.nhantiquecoop.com or call 673-8499.

• **FRANK M. INGALLS** New permanent photography exhibit at the Florence Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua. Call 883-0015.

• **GODFREY (JEFF) SLUDER** Work will be on display at the Forest Society's Conservation Center, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 224-9945.

• **ILLUSTRATOR EXHIBIT** Work by several children's book illustrators is on display at the Brush Gallery and Artists Studio, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Visit www.thebrush.org or call 978-459-7819.

• **IT'S ABOUT TIME** Multi-artist exhibit on display through July 22 at Art 3 Gallery, 44 West Brook St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Monday-Frdiay, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 668-6650 or visit www.art3gallery.com.

• **JON BROOKS:** A Collaboration with Nature will be on display through June 12 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Museum hours are Monday, and Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is $10, $9 for seniors and $8 for student. Free for kids 18 and under. Call 669-6144 or visit www.currier.org.

• **KSC ART ALUMNI EXHIBITION** will be held through June 6 at the Carroll House Art Gallery at Keene State College, 229 Main St., Keene. Hours are Wednesday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Call 358-2040.

• **LET IT BE SPRING** Multi-artist exhibit on display at the Seacoast Artist Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit www.seacoastartist.org.

• **MANCHESTER ARTS** website presented by the city arts commission, manchester-arts.org.

• **NAOMI LINDENFELD** April artist of the month at Exeter Fine Crafts, 61 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Call 778-8282.

• **NEW ENGLAND SCENES** Work of Nan Quintin will be on display through May 28 at the Epsom Public Library, 1606 Dover Road, Epsom. Gallery hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 736-9920 or visit www.epsomlibrary.com.

• **ON THE ROAD AGAIN:** Paintings by Nick Ellard will be on display through May 8 at Lucy's Art Emporium, 303 Central Ave., Dover. Visit www.lucysartemporium.com.

• **OPEN STUDIO NIGHTS** third Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Verdigris Artisans, 88 N. Main St., Suite 205, Concord, www.verdigrisartisans.com.

• **PASTELS** by Nashua artist Pauline Dailey will be on display in the Image Gallery at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, free and open to the public. Call 589-4610.

• **PASTEL SOCIETY OF NH 6th ANNUAL MEMBER'S EXHIBITION** will be held through May 14 at the Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. It is free and open to the public. Visit www.themillbrookgallery.com or call 226-2046.

• **PAT HURD** Work will be on display through April at Burque Jewelers, 89 West Pearl St., Nashua. E-mail phurd1503@aol.com.

• **PLAY** Multi-artist exhibit on display through May 5, noon- 5 p.m. at UMASS Lowell, 1 University Ave., Lowell, Mass. Call 978-934-4000.

• **RECLAMATION** Work of Linda Graham and Emily Hague will be on display through May 30 at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests' Conservation Center, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 224-9945.

In a gallery near you

Art and law

Two exhibits will be on display through May 13 at the University of New Hampshire School of Law, 2 White St., Concord. The first exhibit includes the artwork of UNH Law students, faculty and staff, such as Heath Misley, Katrina Misley, LeinWeih Tseng, Kimberly Reeve and Jun Ye. Staff and faculty artists are Ellen Lessard, Sally Oliver and Professor Eleanor MacLellan. The underwater photography of Finis Williams, an attorney in Concord, will also be on display. The exhibits are open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on the weekends, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and are free of charge. There will be an artists' reception on Thursday, April 28, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., as part of Art Concord. Call 228-1541. "Green Sea Turtle" by Finis Williams. Courtesy photo.

Manchester Artists Association Gallery

Hours: Wed, Fri, Sat: 10–4Thurs: 10–7:30
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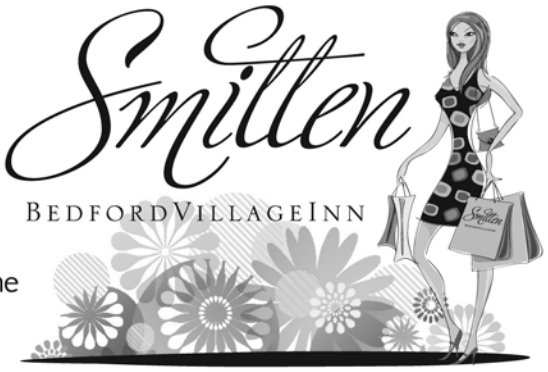

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CLASSICAL

Live opera again in NH

GSSO plays highlights at year-end concert

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

Since the Granite State Opera closed its doors in 2009, there has been a shortage of live opera in New Hampshire. But fans will be able to get their fix on Saturday, April 30 — and have the chance to win lodging for a week's vacation on Nantucket Island.

The Granite State Symphony Orchestra will turn to opera for its final concert of the season when it performs "A Night at the Opera & Silent Auction" at the Concord City Auditorium. In the performance, which is also the orchestra's yearly fundraiser, mezzo soprano Tania Mandzy and baritone Jimi James will perform Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Bizet's *Carmen*.

In describing the setup for the concert, Mandzy said it would be broken down into overtures, arias and duets. In addition to performing the works of the three masters, the orchestra will play John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever." However, they will not be guided by the baton of conductor Robert C. Babb for this number. Instead, the highest bidder in the silent auction will get to guest conduct, following a Granite State Symphony Orchestra tradition.

This is not the first collaboration between Mandzy, the Boston-based singer, and the GSSO. She performed with the orchestra in December in its holiday pops concert and in 2009 by singing Copland's *Old American Songs*.

Mandzy earned her master's degree from the fabled Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and now works in downtown Nashua. She said the concert will be enjoyed by even the most casual of opera fans as the songs are highlights from some of the best shows.

"She has a beautiful voice," said Nuha Haddad, the GSSO board member in charge of the silent auction, which occurs during the final concert. "She is going to be great."

Perhaps the only thing more varied than Jimi James' opera performances is his life experience. James was born in Hawaii, was raised in Cape Cod and settled in Syracuse before moving to Hollis a few years ago. He has performed in many states, including New Hampshire, New York, Maryland, Missouri and Massachusetts.

"It's always a pleasure to perform in New Hampshire," James said. "I love this part of the country."

James said he knows Mandzy by reputation but has not worked with her before. He said in most cases, since the performers know the pieces so well, they know what the characters would do and so they are able to create chemistry very quickly. James did acknowledge that the GSSO was taking a bit of risk by having opera singing on the night of its fundraiser, as sometimes symphony crowds don't like vocal performances. But he said the selection is interesting in a symphonic way. James also said last year's crowd was very lively and this year's performance lends itself to more of a dialogue.

Tania Mandzy. Courtesy photo

The concert begins at 8 p.m., but the silent auction starts an hour earlier, according to Haddad. The auction is the major fundraiser for the orchestra for the year and, while ticket sales account for about 40 percent of the budget, it is critical to help generate the rest of the funds needed.

Haddad said new this year to be auctioned is Fisher Cats 2011 Luxury Suite 9, which includes 18 game seats and two Luxury Suite parking passes for the game on Wednesday, July 6. Other items include a week's lodging in an antique house during September 2011 on Nantucket Island (Haddad said last year they accepted two different bids), a wine tasting and tour for up to 20 people at Zorvino Vineyards in Sandown, as well as other prizes like handmade quilts and jewelry.

The auction is organized by the all-volunteer board, whose members are donating a good portion of their time to help out. In addition, one board member who is a carpenter is auctioning away six hours of his skill and will work in your home or shop.

A Night at the Opera & Silent Auction
When: Saturday, April 30, at 8 p.m.; auction begins at 7 p.m.
Where: Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord, www.concordcityauditorium.org, 228-2793
Tickets: Cost $7 to $33
Info: Visit www.gsso.org or call 226-4776.

• **RIVER OF WORDS STREAM OF CONSCIENCE** An art installation created by hundreds of community members willbe on display through April 30 at the Sharon Arts Downtown Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Visit www.sharonarts.org or call 924-2787.

• **RON PLANTE** Work will be on display at the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications, 749 East Industrial Park Dr., Manchester. Hours are Monday-Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call 627-0005.

• **SAMANTHA THOMPSON** Work will be on display through April 30 at Canal Art & Framing, 1 Water St., Nashua. Gallery hours are Monday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 886-1459.

• **SPRING ART EXHIBIT** will be on display through May 27 at Great Bay Community College, 320 Corporate Dr., Portsmouth. Call 427-7641 or visit www.greatbay.edu.

• **SUBURBAN MEMORY** Work of artist Cindy Rizza will be on display through May 15 in the first-floor library at UNH Manchester, 400

Commercial St., Manchester. Visit www.cindyrizza.com.

• **THE MASTER ARTISTS SHOW** Multi-artist exhibit through May 14 at the Soo Rye Art Gallery, 11 Sagamore Road, Rye. Visit www.soorye.com.

• **TRANSFORMATION** Photographic work of David MacEachran and Alicia Bergeron on display at Silver Light Gallery, 28 Main St., Suite 2, Goffstown. Visit www.silverhillsstudio.com or call 497-4674.

• **WILD AND WARY WAYS** work of Rachel B. Hayes will be on display in the Picture Gallery, 39 Saint Gaudens Road, Cornish, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call 675-2175 or visit www.nps.gov/saga.

Classes/workshops/open calls

• **ALONG THE BASKET TRAIL** Basket making demonstration on Sun., May 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, 18 Highlawn Road, Warner. Call 456-2600 or visit www.indianmuseum.org.

• **CREATIVE CRAFT CLASS** will be held Thursdays at 4 p.m. through May 19 at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Visit www.tinyurl.com/nplkid or call 589-3457.

• **ART CLASSES** Sign up for Spring Art Classes, May 2- June 13, and Summer Art Classes, July 11-Aug. 19, at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 or e-mail artcenter@currier.org.

• **CONTINUING ED COURSES** One to Eight week courses beginning Monday, May 2, at the New Hampshire Institute of Art, 148 Concord St., Manchester, 623-0313. Visit www.nhia.edu/continuing-education.

• **NHIAA MASTERS WORKSHOP** with Larry Thomas will be held May 9-May 13 at the New Hampshire Institute of Art, 148 Concord St., Manchester. Tuition costs $220 plus a $25 studio fee. Call 836-2515 or visit www.nhia.edu/masters-workshops.

• **ARTIST ENTREPRENEURIAL WORKSHOPS** will be held on Thurs., May 12, at the Brown Building Auditorium on the Hugh J. Gallen State Office Park, 129 Pleasant St., Concord. Workshops are: Approaching Galleries with Sarah Chaffee, 10 a.m.-noon and Pricing Your Work: Art or Science? with Gary Chabot, 3-5 p.m. Workshops are free but registration is required. Call 271-2789 or visit www.nh.gov/nharts.

On stage

Light and arc

The New Hampshire Master Chorale and Orchestra will perform Richard Einhorn's "Voices of Light" on Friday, April 29, at 8 p.m. at Centerpoint Church, 20 North State St., Concord, at 8 p.m. The music will provide the soundtrack for the silent film *The Passion of Joan of Arc*. The film is considered by critics to be one of the greatest of its genre. Thought to have been destroyed in a warehouse fire, a copy was recently discovered and restored. Tickets cost $25 ($20 for students). Visit www.nhmasterchorale.org. They will also perform on Saturday, April 30, at 8 p.m. at the Flying Monkey Movie House and Performance Center, 39 South Main St., Plymouth. Visit www.flyingmonkeynh.com. Dan Perkins. Courtesy photo.

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

• **SEEKING MUSICIANS** The Amherst Town Band is seeking new musicians on all instruments. They rehearse Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. in the choral room at Souhegan High School, 412 Boston Post Road, Amherst. Most band members are amateur musicians. Visit www.amhersttownband.org.

• **THE MERRIMACK CHORUS** meets Sundays 7-9 p.m. at the John O'Leary Adult Community Center, 4 Church St., Merrimack. Call Choral Director Jamie Saucier at 828-6739.

• **VOICES OF LIGHT** New Hampshire Master Chorale and Orchestra will perform Richard Einhorn's Voices of Light, as the silent film, *The Passion of Joan of Arc* is played on Fri., April 29, at 8 p.m. at Centerpoint Church, 20 North State St., Cocnord. Tickets cost $25 ($20 for students and seniors). Visit www.nhmasterchorale.org. They will also perform on Sat., April 30, at 8 p.m. at the Flying Money Movie House and Performance Center, 29 South Main St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost $40 ($30 for students). Visit www.flyingmonkeynh.com or call 536-2551.

• **A NIGHT AT THE OPERA & SILENT AUCTION** The Granite State Symphony Orchestra will perform on Sat., April 30, at 8 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost $7-$33. Visit www.gsso.org or call 226-4776.

• **MAY DAY CONCERT** Lowell Philharmonic Orchestra will perform on Sun., May 1, at 3 p.m. at the Old Yellow Meetinghouse, United Chruch of Christ, 10 Arlington St., Dracut, Mass. The concert is free. Visit www.lowellphilharmonic.org.

• **HARP CONCERT** will be held on Thurs., May 5, at 7 p.m. in the Klumpp Meeting Room at the Merrimack Public Library, 470 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 424-5021 or visit www.merrimack.lib.nh.us.

• **VERONICA ROBLES** will perform with her Mariachi band on Thurs., May 5, at 5:30 p.m. at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Tickets cost $10. Visit www.currier.org or call 669-6144 ext. 108.

• **WHAT COMES FIRST? THE MUSIC OR DANCE?** Lecture by Kelly Doremus Stuart on Thurs., May 5, 12:10-12:50 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. The event is free and open to the public. Call 228-1196 or visit www.ccmusicschool.org.

• **MONADNOCK FLUTES** will perform on Fri., May 6, at 7 p.m. at the Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 924-4555.

• **SPRING CONCERT** Classy Cats dance team, Milling Around *a cappella* and Pandrumonium will perform on Fri., May 6, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at UNH-Manchester, 400 Commercial St., Manchester. Visit www.unhm.unh.edu.

• **STUDENT RECITAL** on Fri., May 6, at 7 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. The event is free and open to the public. Call 228-1196 or visit www.ccmusicschool.org.

• **FLIGHTS OF FANCY** Nashua Symphony Orchestra will perform on Sat., May 7, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost $10, $25, $35 and $47. Call 595-0156 or visit www.nashuasymphony.org.

• **MUSIC FROM BROADWAY TO THE SILVER SCREEN** Strafford Wind Symphony will perform on Sat., May 7, at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost $7 to $14. Call 335-1992 or visit www.rochesteroperahouse.com.

• **WITHDRAW THE VEIL** Concord Chorale will perform on Sat., May 7, at 8 p.m. and Sun., May 8, at 3 p.m. at the South Congregational Church, 27 Pleasant St., Concord. Call 746-4624 or visit www.concordchorale.org.

• **ADULT STUDENT RECITAL** on Tues., May 10, at 7 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. The event is free and open to the public. Call 228-1196 or visit www.ccmusicschool.org.

• **BANDAPALOOZA** will be performed on Wed., May 11, at 7 p.m. at the Nashua High School South Auditorium, 26 Riverside St., Nashua. Tickets cost $10. Call 589-8540 or visit www.nashuasouthmusic.org.

• **CATHERINE DORNIN** Pianist will perform on Wed., May 11, at noon at St. Paul's Church, 21 Centre St., Concord. Visit www.stpaulsconcord.org or call 224-2523.

• **BACH'S LUNCH CONCERT** will be held on Thurs., May 12, 12:10-12:50 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. The event is free and open to the public. Call 228-1196 or visit www.ccmusicschool.org.

• **AWARDS RECITAL** on Fri., May 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. The event is free and open to the public. Call 228-1196 or visit www.ccmusicschool.org.

• **HARMONY, INC. CONTESTS & CONVENTION** will be held on Fri., May 13, at 5:30 p.m. and Sat., May 14, at noon at the Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester. Tickets cost $15. Visit www.newenglandvoicesinharmony.org.

• **GLEE:** Fully Delicious. NH Gay Men's Chorus will perform on Sat., May 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 79 Clinton St., Concord; on Sun., May 15, at 4 p.m. at the Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond at Keene State College, 229 Main St., Keene; on Sat., May 21, at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 1035 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth and on Sunday, May 22, at 4 p.m. at the Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester. Visit www.nhgmc.com or call 866-644-6274.

• **SPRING CONCERT** Souhegan Valley Chorus will perform on Sat., May 14, at 7 p.m. at the Souhegan High School Auditorium, 412 Boston Post Road, Souhegan and on Sun., May 15, at 2 p.m. at the Milford Town Hall in the Milford Oval. Tickets cost $15 ($10 for seniors and students). Visit www.souheganvalleychorus.org.

• **VARIETY SHOW** Merrimack Concert Association will perform on Sat., May 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Merrimack High School, 38 McElwain St., Merrimack. Tickets cost $16 ($14 for seniors and students). Call 424-0558 or e-mail info@merrimackconcert.org.

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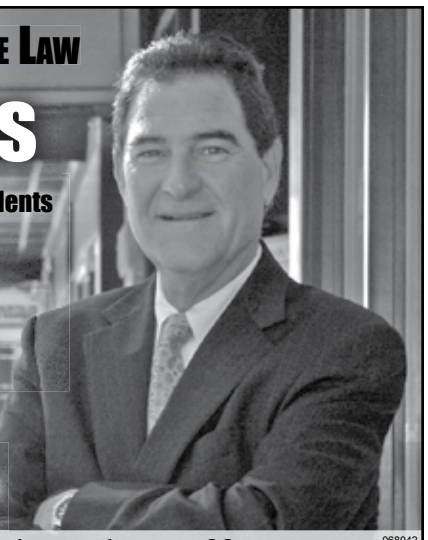
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Food

38 Taco challenge

Wherein we discuss some of the highlights of the upcoming Hippo de Mayo Taco Challenge PLUS Chasing the world's record; Cooking with seafood; Getting kids in the kitchen; Weekly Dish; Paulette Eschrich on wine; Red, White & Green — good bottles for less than $20.

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Manchester cleans up its act

Volunteers remove litter from local ponds and parks

By Tori Loubier
tloubier@hippopress.com

Prom dresses, homemade Wicca handbooks, large stuffed unicorns and bronze Buddha statues.

These are all items that volunteers of the Manchester Urban Pond Restoration Program (UPRP) have found and picked up during cleanups over the years in an effort to restore the Queen City's water areas.

Since 2000, UPRP has been focusing on six to seven ponds in Manchester to clean, restore and maintain. Initially established as part of the Supplemental Environmental Projects Plan (SEPP), which was part of an agreement between the City of Manchester, the Department of Environmental Services and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the UPRP lost its full-time coordinator in 2006, as well as its formal budget, said Jen Drociak, the Volunteer River Assessment Program Coordinator of the Watershed Management Bureau and a member of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, in an e-mail interview.

Since 2006 the program has been coordinated on a part-time, seasonal basis (April/May and October) in order to ensure that certain facets of the program, such as twice yearly pond cleanups, annual water quality monitoring, and outreach and education, can continue.

This spring UPRP has already tackled Black Brook/Blodget Park and will head to Stevens Pond and Park on Saturday, April 30, and then Nutts Pond and Precourt Park on Saturday, May 7.

"Manchester is a large city with impervious surfaces like roads, highways, driveways, parking lots, roofs and more. [These allow] storm water to runoff into the storm drains and eventually into our urban waterways instead of infiltrating and being absorbed by pervious surfaces before any pollutants reach the surface waters," said Drociak. This means that storm water can carry sand, grit, oils, paints, fertilizers, pesticides, nutrients, heavy metals, pet waste and other pollutants. "Any activity we do on land within a watershed can affect our waters," she said.

"Since we began, seven water bodies in Manchester have been evaluated and monitored for restoration potential," Drociak said. "Statistically it takes at least 10 years to discern water quality trends, and 2010 marked the 10th year of collecting data." Water quality is monitored once a month in June, July and August of each year.

To promote public awareness, URPRP has established the Crystal Lake Protection Association, Dorrs Pond Preservation Society, and Pine Island Pond Environmental Society, as well as outreach and education activities with local middle schools, high schools and community colleges, Drociak said, adding that there are more than 400 volunteers who assist with various activities.

To support biological diversity, the UPRP has participated in two projects since 2000: "One project involves the eradication of invasive species at Crystal Lake," said Drociak. "The other involves a dam removal and river restoration project on Black Brook at Maxwell Pond. The dam was a barrier to fish passage, a flood hazard and the cause of the dissolved oxygen impairment. [We] are working to remove the brook."

In an attempt to provide recreational uses at each pond, the UPRP boasts a completed wetland-sensitive boardwalk and loop trail around Dorrs Pond and is seeking to do the same at Maxwell Pond and Black Brook. The program has maintained a car-top boat that launches at Dorrs Pond, Nutts Pond and Stevens Pond, and has reconstructed playgrounds at Crystal Lake, Dorrs Pond and Pine Island Pond, according to Drociak.

UPRP relies heavily on volunteers; Drociak calls them the "backbone of the program."

"Some of our volunteers have been assisting for six or more years," she said, adding that UPRP consistently works with school groups such as the Manchester Memorial High School Ecology Club and Southern New Hampshire University Environmentally Sustainable Students group.

"[Cleanups] typically involve volunteers walking around the shoreline and trails of the pond and removing trash that has accumulated over the winter and summer months," Drociak said. "Some of the more ambitious ones don hip or chest waders and remove trash from the water."

Drociak likes to keep things exciting at the cleanups: "Whomever brings back the most interesting or unusual piece of trash wins an award, or at least the highest honors of the program and my personal accolade ... you never know what you'll find," she said.

Jen Drociak and volunteer Jeff Marcoux clean up the 1,500th bag of trash at Black Brook and Blodget Park this past Sat., April 23. Courtesy photo by Kathleen Schmidt.

Looking back, Drociak deems UPRP successful, despite challenges in budget and official leadership. There have been 78 cleanup events with 463 volunteers spending 1,644 hours collecting 1,499 bags of trash. "I'm unsure whether to feel proud or scared of that number to tell you the truth," she said, adding that the value of volunteer time spent at these cleanups has amounted to more than $33,000 over the years.

The Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program was just recently awarded a 2011 EPA Environmental Merit Award. This award recognizes New England individuals and groups who have shown ingenuity and commitment in their environmental stewardship. Visit www.epa.gov/ne/ra/ema/

Volunteer your time

The Manchester Urban Pond Restoration Program has two more scheduled cleanups. On Saturday, April 30, volunteers will meet at the boat launch on Bridge Street Extension to clean up Stevens Pond and Stevens Pond Park. On Saturday, May 7, meet at the kiosk at Precourt Park on Driving Park Road to clean Nutts Pond and Precourt Park. UPRP asks volunteers to arrive at the location no later than 8:45 a.m., as cleanups begin at 9 a.m. Latex gloves and bags will be provided. Drociak recommends wearing boots and bringing a friend. Visit www.manchesternh.gov/website/Departments/EnvironmentalProtection/SEPP/PondRestoration/CleanUpEvents/tabid/1034/Default.aspx or e-mail Drociak at urbanponds@gmail.com.

CHILDREN & TEENS

• **DINOSAUR DAY** Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington Street, Dover, Thurs., April 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dino Day participants are invited to explore a variety of hands-on dinosaur activities and demonstrations, such as examining and arranging fossil replicas, learning the difference between plant eaters and meat eaters, creating a dinosaur egg to take home and hatch, inventing a unique dinosaur of their own, reading dinosaur books, and playing the role of paleontologist to search for clues in the museum's Dino Detective exhibit. Meet the museum's new dinosaur friend Jack, an 8-foot-tall Tyrannosaurus Rex made of paper mache. All activities included in the regular price of admission ($8 adults and children, $7 seniors).

• **2011 FISH FESTIVAL** Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center, 6 Fletcher St., Manchester, Thurs., April 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. An event all about fish. Participants can watch U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists deliver adult broodstock salmon. Fish crafts, fish viewing, fish hats, fish games, a fish storywalk, etc. Cost is $3 per person or $6 per family. Visit www.amoskeagfishways.org

• **PLANTING WITH PRESCHOOLERS** Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, 23 Science Center Road, Holderness, Fri., April 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m. A program for preschoolers ages 4-6). Join a staff Naturalist for exploration, play, and song. Young participants will discover seeds and the processes they undergo to grow into plants. The children will plant native wildflower seeds on site and each child will plant some in a container to take home. Adult must accompany children at no charge. Cost is $9. Limited space for all programs; reservations and advance payment required. Call 968-7194 to register.

• **LIBRARY WHEEL OF FORTUNE** The Children's Room at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord, Fri., April 29, 2:30 p.m. Play wheel of fortune at the library. Call 230-3682.

• **SONG WRITING WORKSHOP** Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington Street, Dover, Saturdays, April 30- May 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Children ages 8-10 will have the opportunity to learn about the craft of songwriting from New Hampshire bluegrass musician and songwriter Rick Lang. The May 7 class will run noon-1 p.m. The four-part workshop costs $30. Registration by calling 742-2002.

• **YOUTH FISHING DAY** Merrill Park on Eastman St., Concord, Sat., April 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Fishing in a stocked trout pond for persons under 16 years old is sponsored by the Basil W. Woods, Jr. chapter of Trout Unlimited. Drawing for youth flyfishing outfit. There will be refreshments, fly casting instruction, and fly tying demonstration. Tackle and bait is provided, or bring your own. Those under 10 years old should bring an adult. Contact Bill Hall at 463-7766 or e-mail woodhenge@copper.net.

• **MAY DAY** High Mowing School, Abbot Hill Road, Wilton, Sat., April 30, 1-4 p.m. Celebrate spring with Maypole and Morris dancing, live music, refreshments and annual pottery sale. Free and open to the public. Call 654-2391 or visit www.highmowing.org.

• **IMAGINATION MOVERS** at Verizon Wireless Arena, Manchester, Sat., April 30, at 4:30 p.m. Part of Disney's Emmy Award-winning ImaginationMovers' "In a Big Warehouse" concert tour. The popular New Orleans-based rock band for kids of all ages will travel coast to coast playing their most popular songs and bringing the magic of the *Idea Warehouse* TV series to life. Tickets are priced at $45.50, $35.50 and $25.50 and are on sale at the Verizon Wireless Arena box office, at Ticketmaster outlets at 800-745-3000 and online at tick-

Kiddie Pool

Family fun this weekend

Write songs

• Budding musicians will appreciate the **songwriting workshop** at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover, starting Saturday, April 30, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Children ages 8-10 will have the opportunity to learn about the craft of songwriting from New Hampshire bluegrass musician and songwriter Rick Lang. This program will continue through May 21. The four-part workshop costs $30. Call 742-2002.

Go fishing

• Saturday, April 30, is **Youth Fishing Day** at Merrill Park on Eastman Street in Concord, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children age 16 and younger can fish in a stocked trout pond. There will be refreshments, fly casting instruction, and fly tying demonstration. Tackle and bait are provided, or bring your own. Those under 10 years old should bring an adult. Contact Bill Hall at 463-7766 or e-mail woodhenge@copper.net.

• And on Sunday, May 1, from 8 a.m. to noon, children ages 14 and under can compete at the **children's fishing derby** at 5 Lund St., Litchfield, presented by the Londonderry Fish and Game Club. The pond will be stocked with fish. Prizes in various categories are provided. Food and drink will be available to purchase. Bring your own worms and tackle. Registration at the event is required to participate. Visit www.londonderryfishandgameclub.com.

Disney in Manchester

• The whole family will love **Imagination Movers** at the Verizon Wireless Arena, Manchester, on Saturday, April 30, at 4:30 p.m., part of Disney's Emmy Award-winning ImaginationMovers' "In a Big Warehouse" concert tour. The popular New Orleans-based rock band for kids of all ages is traveling coast to coast playing their most popular songs and bringing the magic of the *Idea Warehouse* TV series to life. Tickets are priced at $45.50, $35.50 and $25.50 and are on sale at the Verizon Wireless Arena box office, at Ticketmaster outlets at 800-745-3000 and online at ticketmaster.com.

Celebrate, Granite state

• The Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, 23 Science Center Road, Holderness, is holding its annual **New Hampshire Day** on Sunday, May 1, and families are invited to get closer to nature at a discounted admission fee. New Hampshire residents can visit the Center any time on Sunday betwee 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. for $3 per person. Science Center naturalists will present animal mini-talks at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Admission includes access to the ¾-mile Gephart Exhibit Trail, showing off native New Hampshire wildlife like the red fox, fisher, river otter, hawks and more. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

• Celebrate **May Day** at the High Mowing School, Abbot Hill Road, Wilton, Saturday, April 30, from 1 to 4 p.m. Celebrate spring with Maypole and Morris dancing, live music, refreshments and the annual pottery sale, all free and open to the public. Call 654-2391 or visit www.highmowing.org.

Play games, hear stories

• Kids can win big when they play **library wheel of fortune** in the children's room at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord, Friday, April 29, at 2:30 p.m. Call 230-3682.

• Stop at the Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson, at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 29, for **vacation drop-in storytime** for ages 3-7. Visit www.rodgerslibrary.org.

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etmaster.com.

• **CHILDREN'S FISHING DERBY** 5 Lund St., Litchfield, Sun., May 1, 8 a.m.-noon. Presented by the Londonderry Fish and Game Club, this event is free and open to children ages 14 and under. The pond is stocked with fish, making it easy to catch them. Prizes in various categories are provided. Food and drink will be available to purchase. Bring your own worms and tackle. Registration at the event is required to participate. Visit http://www.londonderryfishandgameclub.com.

• **LIFE SIZE CANDYLAND** Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, Mon., May 2, 10 a.m. For ages 2-5 years old. Find the King of Candyland. Registration is required. Call 624-6550 ext. 335.

• **MOTHER MAY I?** The Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center, 6 Fletcher St., Manchester, Sat., May 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Celebrate Mother's Day by making a gift: fill a basket with organic soil and fresh flowers. Cost is $8 per basket. Advance registration with payment required. Call 626-3474 or visit www.amoskeagfishways.org

Teen/tween events

• **YOUNG WOMEN'S YOGA RETREAT** Brown Lane Barn at Beaver Brook Association, Hollis, Sat., June 4, 9-3 p.m. Practice yoga in nature. Explore the connections between mind, body, breath and emotions. Learn techniques for self-care such as setting healthy boundaries, cultivating confidence, and finding fun ways of exercising and reducing stress. Prepare a healthy meal together for lunch and each student will take home a list of nourishing snacks and simple recipes. Activities will include a variety of outdoor yoga poses, yoga hiking games, journaling, creative group projects, philosophy/discussion, breathing techniques and deep relaxation. Wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to go outdoors. Bring a water bottle and yoga mat if you have one. For girls ages 13-19. Cost is $60 and includes lunch and snacks. Call 465-7787 or 769-1491. Space is limited to 12 participants.

• **GEEKS R US ANIME CLUB** for teens at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua Road, Milford, meets monthly on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. in the Keyes Meeting Room. Hang out and discuss your favorite anime or manga series, games and activities. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **ANIME CLUB** for ages 12-18 at the Hollis Social Library on the last Monday of every month, 2:30-4:15 p.m.

• **ANIME CLUB** for ages 13-17 at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, first Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. Discuss anime or manga series, participate in games and activities, and display your anime sketches in the teen room.

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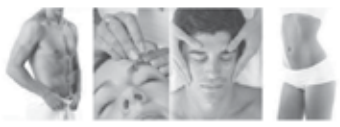
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Talkin' jewelry

New store offers lessons in all things silver

By Tori Loubier
tloubier@hippopress.com

When I first started this shopping and fashion column back in October, I said that my aim was to show it's possible to find a balance between being trendy and being classic.

For the most part, I've stayed true to my original intent, straying every now and then to include big name brands and trends in the bigger cities. However, as I stepped into Let's Talk Jewelry (650 Amherst St., Nashua) recently, I was brought back to what I had first written; the little store brings in a taste of the big world, and it's the perfect starting point for someone looking to add some edge to their New England style.

Boasting 36 years in the jewelry business, owner Ann Matthews spent her time traveling for a wholesale business nationally, to Atlanta, Seattle, New York City and Los Angeles, as well as internationally, to Indonesia, Turkey, India, Italy and Thailand. Such travels have provided Matthews with an expanded variety of styles and fashions from the wildest to the most simple. It's this broad collection, and her deep knowledge of every piece she sells, that makes this store unique.

"What sells in L.A. will not sell here ... what sells in Arizona won't sell here ... and what sells here won't sell everywhere. Learning to find out what works in New Hampshire is definitely a project," she explains. "I can't always buy what I like, but if something jumps out at me, then I have to have it [in the store]."

Matthews opened Let's Talk Jewelry in November 2010 with two goals in mind: to fill every inch of wall space with jewelry and to offer realistic prices.

Though the store is filled with scarves, purses and jewelry boxes, it's interesting to note the way in which Matthews has designed the layout, organized by type and style. She makes sure to draw a clear line between trendy items and quality items.

"I watch for trends, but I make sure to price them correctly," Matthews said, adding that she doesn't agree with chain stores that spike up trendy earrings and necklaces because of their fast turnover. "Right now, big 3- to 4-inch earrings are all the rage," she said, pointing to a few stands that hold such items.

Fashion jewelry, the name that Matthews gives to such styles, means any item that isn't made of silver. Most fashion jewelry is made of various washed metals, tin or even plastic. Feathers and fringe dominate this category,

Jewelry from Bali. Tori Loubier photo.

and in addition to the two rotating stands, Matthews offers a long table for trendy buyers to revel in. I'm instantly brought back to street shopping in New York City, as I see many similar items on this table. Matthews sells her fashion earrings for $3.99 each or three for $10.

Most of the store is devoted to showcasing styles from around the world, with necklaces, earrings and rings made of zinc, larimar, crystal, stainless steel, aurora borealis and more.

She prides herself on finding high-quality sterling silver, though right now times are tough in the silver market. She explains to me that necklaces with a small touch of sterling silver are popular right now because of the high price of silver per ounce. "When I started 36 years ago the price per ounce of sterling silver was $3.99. Two years ago it began spiking significantly ... last July it was up to $28 and today it is at $45 per ounce," she said. Companies have begun to use more metal-based jewelry with a silver wash, though Matthews says she tries to stay away from that unless she trusts the dealer.

"I look for quality. The more weight in a piece means the more you can do with it," she said, adding that weight doesn't always denote better quality, but it does ensure a better variety of looks. She pulls out two necklaces, one from India and one from Thailand; though they look similar, one weighs much more than the other and I can see what she means.

Matthews boasts great spring and summer jewelry finds, especially in necklaces. Bright, bold, statement necklaces are big right now, especially shell jewelry from Bali. Shell jewelry is exactly as it sounds, and comes in beautiful colors perfect for summer. Lightweight, the shells usually feature a small decorative sterling silver component that would spice up a plain outfit.

Let's Talk Jewelry
650 Amherst St., Nashua, 886-5900. Hours: Wednesday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Call 589-4612 or visit www.tinyurl.com/nplteen.

• **ANIME CLUB** at Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester. Meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Open to teens in grades 6-12. Play cards, watch movies, discuss favorite characters, and draw. Call Kate Norton at 624-6550 ext. 335 or e-mail knorton@manchester.nh.gov for details.

• **BALLROOM DANCING** for ages 11-19 at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester. To sign up, e-mail qnctybalrm@aol.com or call 622-1500. Visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

• **BLEEDING HEARTS BOOK CLUB** meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. For girls ages 12-18 who like reading and talking about books such as the *Twilight* series that involve female protagonists and romance. Bring a favorite book to share with the group. Free and open to the public.

• **CECILIA ENSEMBLE** high school age section of the Peterborough Children's Choir is open to girls grades 9-12 who can meet for practice Mondays 4-5:30 p.m. at Peterborough Unitarian Church on Main Street. There are requirements for singing ability and self-motivation. Contact Maria Belva at 924-2055 or mariabelva@gmail.com. See www.pcchoir.org.

• **CHICKS WITH STICKS** Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua Road, Milford, meets monthly on Thursdays, 3 p.m. in the AV Room. Thurs., May 5: *The Nature of Jade* by Deb Caletti. Summary: Seattle high school senior Jade's life is defined by her anxiety disorder and dysfunctional family, until she spies a mysterious boy with a baby who seems to share her fascination with the elephants at a nearby zoo. Bring your current knitting project and

In the spotlight

Sing, sing a song

This spring children ages 8-10 will have the opportunity to learn about the craft of songwriting from New Hampshire bluegrass musician and songwriter Rick Lang (pictured). Songwriting and the Creative Process is a four-part workshop that will be held at the Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, on four consecutive Saturdays starting April 30, 10:30-11:30 a.m. (except for the May 7 class which will meet from noon to 1 p.m.). Participants will be introduced to traditional American music and will work collaboratively to write a song about rivers, using the museum's Cocheco-system exhibit and the river flowing behind the museum as inspiration. The project will culminate in the creation of a group song about rivers that is put to music. Each student will receive a copy of the song in electronic form and the museum will share the song with visitors and school groups. The cost is $30. Call 742-2002.

enjoy some snacks and discussion about the book. New members and beginning knitters welcome! Copies are available on the teen display. Chicks with Sticks is for grades 6 and up. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **DROP IN & CHILL OUT** for ages 11-17 at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, Tuesdays at 4 p.m. No planning, no commitment: stop by if you can and de-stress with these projects.

• **FANTASY BOOK CLUB** held on the first Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. For ages 8-13. For kids who love reading fantasy books about dragons, magic, the future and more. Free and open to the public.

• **SCIENCE MADNESS** for ages 10-14 at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Grab your lab coats and join us while we use science to build essential mad scientist tools.

• **MONDAY NIGHT SCRABBLE** every week, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. Join other young adults for some fun rounds of this classic word game. Invite a partner. Bring a Scrabble board, if possible.

• **NH INSTITUTE OF ART** (148 Concord St., Manchester, 866-241-4918, www.nhia.edu) offers classes for high school students for college credit. Prices vary depending on type of class and materials needed.

• **SIT & KNIT** at Nashua Library, 2 Court St. www.tinyurl.com/nplteen.

• **TAG** (Teen Advisory Group) at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., on second Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. Volunteer for special projects, help choose library programs, recommend materials to purchase, and write reviews of teen materials for the blog. Ages 11-17. For more info call 589-4612 or visit www.tinyurl.com/nplteen.

• **TEEN ADVISORY BOARD** meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m., at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. For ages 13-18. Help the library plan programs, choose books and materials for teens, organize community outreach, decorate the teen area, eat snacks and hang out with friends. Community service credit will be given.

• **TEEN CRAFT WEDNESDAYS** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford, meets monthly on Wednesdays. Make a necklace, earrings, or bracelet out of old computer parts. Registration required and limited to 15. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **TEEN COOKING CLUB** at Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, meets monthly on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Teens ages 11-18 are welcome to learn the basics of cooking, make their favorite dishes and explore new types of food. All materials will be provided. Club meets in the Winchell Room. Call 624-6550.

• **TEEN MUSIC CLASSES** at Music Together of Milford, 102 Elm St., Milford, on Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Advanced beginners and intermediates welcome to acoustic music class led by Amy Conley. Cost is $10/session. Adults also welcome. Call 249-9560 to register. Visit www.amyconleymusic.com.

• **TEEN MUSIC CLUB** meets monthly on Mondays at 4 p.m. at Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester. Open to kids 11-18. Listen to new music and improve your skills. Bring your own instrument. Call Kate Norton at 624-6550 ext. 342 or e-mail knorton@manchesternh.gov for info.

• **TEEN PIZZA & PAGES** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford, meets monthly on Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. For grades 5 and up. Enjoy pizza while discussing a book. Copies available on the teen display. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **TEEN YOGA** Mon.-Thurs., 3:30-4:30 p.m., at Zaanti Yoga and Meditation Studio, Main St. in Wilton, 654-3051, www.zaantiyogastudio.com. Classes are $15 drop-in, $12 with 10-class pass.

• **TWEEN TUESDAYS** every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the meeting room at the Hollis Social Library. Choose from Fantasy Book Club, Game Club, Craft Days, Book Buddies, or do all four. Fantasy Book Club is on the first Tuesday of every month and designed for kids who love reading fantasy books. Books provided at each meeting for the following month. Game Club is on the second Tuesday of every month and includes Wii, board games and snacks. Craft Days are the third Tuesday of every month. Book Buddies is the fourth Tuesday of every month and includes planning story times and crafts for preschool children. Read at after-school storytime and family pajama time

• **TWEEN GAME CLUB** for ages 8-13 is held every other Wednesday at 4 p.m., at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. Drop in to play a variety of games. Free and open to the public.

• **WII DAYS FOR TEENS** at Hollis Social Library, every other Friday, 3 p.m., for ages 12-18. Snacks and drinks provided. Sign up at the circulation desk.

• **TEEN WRITING CLUB** for teens at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua Road, Milford. Free-write for the first half hour, then read aloud (you can bring in anything you've been working on at home for this part). Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **YOU'RE FIRED** (Bedford, 641-FIRE; Concord, 226-FIRE; Salem, 894-KILN; yourefirednh.com) Friday Night is Teen Night and teen studio fees are $4 (half off).

DANCE

• **Arthur Murray Dance Studio**
99 Elm St., Manchester, 624-6857, learntodancetoday.com

• **Bliss Healing Arts Center LLC**
250 Commercial St. # 2007, 624-0080, blisshealing.com

• **Dance International Studio**
83 Hanover St., Manchester, 858-0162, importers-exporters.com/DIS.htm

• **Kathy Blake Dance Studios**
3 Northern Blvd. in Amherst, 673-3978, kathyblakedancestudios.com

• **Krystal Ballroom Dance Studio**
352 S. Broadway, Salem, 870-9350, krystalballroom.com

• **Let's Dance Studio**
5 North Main St., Concord, 228-2800, letsdancenh.com

• **Mill-A-Round Dance Center**
250 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-3880, millaround.com

• **Paper Moon Dance Center**
515 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-1100, papermoondance.com.

• **Queen City Ballroom**
21 Dow St., Manchester, 622-1500, queencityballroomnh.com

• **Royal Palace Dance Studio**
167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com

• **Senior Activity Center**
70 Temple St., Nashua, 889-6155

• **Steppin' Out Dance Studio**
1201 Westford St., Lowell, 978-452-1111, steppinoutdance-lowell.com

Belly Dance Classes

• **BOW COMMUNITY BUILDING** (2 Knox Road, Bow) on Thursdays 5:45-6:45 p.m. $54 ($49 for residents). Call Tracey at 225-3774.

• **HOLISTIC SELF CARE CENTER** on Saturdays, noon-1 p.m. Four classes cost $40, drop-in fee is $12. Call 883-1490 and visit thehsc-center.com.

• **PAPER MOON DANCE CENTER** (515 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-1100, papermoondance.com) on Mondays at 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Cost is $15 for drop-in, or $45 for a month.

• **STYLING SOULS** 832 Elm St., Manchester on Sundays at 6 p.m., cost is $12 per class. Visit www.stylingsouls.com.

Folk Classes and Dance

• **AFRICAN DANCE** and drumming workshop taught by Theo Martey on Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Murphy's Gym, 163 Lake Ave., Manchester. The Akwaaba Ensemble features West African drumming and dance. Cost is $13; purchase a card for $72 for six weeks. Drums provided if you don't have them. See www.akwaabaensemble.com or call 224-5582.

• **BEGINNERS LINE DANCING** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere

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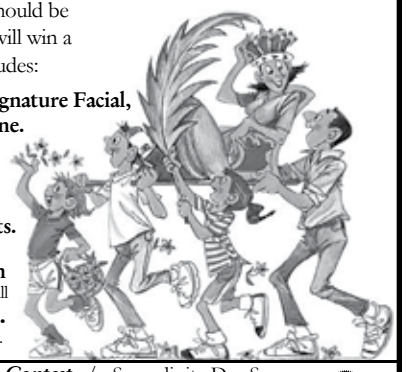

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GARDENING GUY

Making a spring wreath

It's as easy as tying your shoes

Spring wreath. Henry Homeyer photo.

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

A friend recently pointed out to me that the evergreen spray I'd put on the front door back in December looked pitiful. It did. Funny how I can not notice the obvious. I decided that the time had come to put something else on the front door, something that shouted, "Spring and summer are on the way."

I like making wreaths. A spring wreath using pussywillows, red-twigged dogwood and alder branches seemed like a good idea, so I headed off to find twigs alongside the road. All three plants are native to New England, and plentiful in wet areas.

Pussywillows (Salix alba, S. caprea or S. discolor) are weedy little trees or big shrubs whose major virtue is that their male catkins are furry fellows that perk up an otherwise drab time of year. And pussywillows are tough. They will grow in water-logged soil that would be fatal to the root systems of most other trees or shrubs. On the other hand, they are weak-wooded and often scraggly. But at this time of year they are in their glory.

Elsewhere along a roadside I'd noticed the brilliant red stems of redosier dogwood (Cornus sericea). The redosier dogwood is a native shrub that, like pussywillows, does well in wet locations. Tatarian dogwood (C. alba) is a landscape plant that is sold for its red twigs, too. New growth on either is brilliant red, particularly in winter. Second-year growth turns gray, with just a hint of red.

Anyone who grows red-twigged dogwoods needs to prune them severely each year to keep them from looking drab. The town road crew had done a good pruning job — early last summer their brush hogs had cut plenty of red-twigged dogwood right to the ground. The stems were bright red — and free for the cutting. A healthy dogwood can grow 2 to 3 feet in a single season.

I have generally considered black alder (Alnus glutinosa) a nuisance plant that fills in and takes over around my stream. In researching this article I learned that they do have a virtue: they are nitrogen-fixing plants, so they improve the soil. Alders have male and female flowers. The male flowers are typical catkins but the female flowers resemble cones. Last year's seed-producers are still visible and handsome.

Rather than using a wire form, I made a simple grapevine wreath that allowed me to squeeze twigs between the vines. This reduced the need to use wires to attach the twigs, though I did use some florist's wire to help attach twigs in places. This very thin wire is green, and easily cut with scissors.

I went to the woods and cut a 15-foot length of grapevine that was about as thick around as a pencil. It is important to use fresh, not dead, vines; the one I cut was a greenish white inside and flexible, so I knew it would work well. Grapevines are readily available and produce good food for our feathered friends, although they can choke out some trees if left to get huge.

To make the wreath I formed a vine circle about 16 inches in diameter by overlapping (or twisting) one half of the vine over the other half — the same way I start tying my shoelaces. Then grasping one of the loose ends I wove it around the vine circle in tight loops. When I ran out of vine I tucked the end into the circle and repeated the maneuver with the other end of the vine. When done the grapevine wreath was about an inch and a half thick and 18 inches in diameter.

Next I cut some pussywillow twigs 12 to 18 inches long and tucked them into the wreath one at a time, forcing them into the crevices between the vines. Sometimes it was tough to force a twig into the wreath as the bent vines make an almost impenetrable barrier in places. I used a screwdriver to pry the vines apart to make room for twigs if needed. The pussywillow twigs followed the contour of the wreath but extended out beyond it.

Then I took redosier dogwood and alder twigs and tucked them into the wreath, again spreading the grapevines apart and letting the natural tension hold them in place. I cut them a bit longer so that they stuck out further from the grapevine portion of the wreath. I selected alder twigs that had the cones and catkins.

When completed, the wreath was about 36 inches in diameter and had a distinctly porcupine-like appearance. I ended up putting it on the wall near the front door, as it shows up better there than on the natural wood colored door.

Spring has been slow to arrive this year, and I'm more than ready for its arrival. Making a spring wreath has helped a little.

Henry's new book, Organic Gardening (not just) in the Northeast: A Hands-on, Month-by-Month Guide*, is now in print and available from him or from your local bookstore. His Web site is www.Gardening-Guy.com. His blog is henryhomeyer.wordpress.com. You can follow him on Twitter or email him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net.*

Drive, Epsom, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.

• **BORDER CITY SQUARES** offers square dance lessons every Mon., 7-9 p.m. First night is free. Dance is held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. See bordercitysquares.freeservers.com or call Cheryl Imbody at 438-2366.

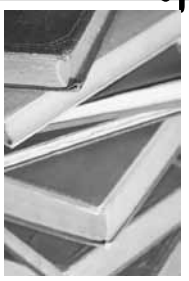
• **COUPLES DANCE LESSONS** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive, Epsom, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.

• **GREEK FOLK DANCING** Sunday evenings at the St. George Greek Orthodox Community Center in Manchester. Open to everyone. Call 497-4581.

• **LINE DANCING** on Mondays at the Nashua Activity Center, beginners 4:45-5:45 p.m., improvers 7-8 p.m. Cost is $50, runs for eight weeks.

• **LINE DANCING** on Wednesdays at Campbell High School (Highlander Way, Litchfield), 7-8 p.m., contact

In the spotlight



Get stuff, sell stuff

Looking for stuff? Head to Greenland Parish House, 42 Post Road in Greenland, on Thursday, April 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. or Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30, from 8:30 to 1 p.m. for their rummage sale, featuring clothes for children and adults, toys, household items, books and more. Or, go to St. Peter's Parish, 135 North State St. in Concord, on Saturday, April 30, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for their indoor yard sale.

Or, learn how to get rid of stuff. The Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St. in Nashua, will hold a program explaining how to sell items on eBay or Craigslist or give them away on Freecycle on Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Call Carol at 589-4610.

Campbell HS Community Program at 546-0300.

• **LINE DANCING** on Thursdays at the Windham Senior Center (2 North Lowell Road, Windham), 9:45-10:45 a.m., for 4 weeks. Call the Windham Rec. Dept. at 965-1208.

• **LINE DANCING** on Mondays and Thursdays at the Nashua Sr. Center. Absolute Beginners-Beginners and Improver classes offered. Contact CJ at nhgrizzlies@comcast.net for info, times and fee.

• **LINE DANCING LESSONS** at the Mill-a-Round Dance Center. Beginner, easy, intermediate, available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Cost is $8. Visit www.millaround.com for specific dates and times.

• **RHYTHM LINE DANCING** at Royal Palace Dance Studio on Tuesdays 6:15-7 p.m. Visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.

• **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** on Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 215 Main St., Nashua (e-mail nashuascd@comcast.net); and second and fourth Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 69 Washington St., Keene (call Bill Schenck, 352-6968). Visit rscdsboston.org for a complete list.

• **SQUARE DANCE FAMILY FUN NIGHTS** hosted by Heel & Toe Square Dance Club at the Cercle National Club, 550 Rockland Ave., Manchester. Couples, singles, and families are welcome. Call 497-3484 or 497-3414.

LANGUAGE

• **AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE** at Two Bedford Farms, Bedford. Visit www.teachmesignlanguage.com for a list of courses. Kids and adult classes available. Registration required. Call Michelle MacNevin at 508-944-7831. Cost is $60, all materials included. Save $10 for every person you refer.

• **CHINESE** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. Visit www.nashualibrary.org/directions.htm or call Carol at 589-4610.

• **CHINESE** language programs from the Derry Chinese School, including preschool, elementary, intermediate, teen and adult programs, in Derry. All classes are Saturday mornings at the Marion Gerrish Community Center (39 W. Broadway, Derry). Call 888-928-8470 and visit www.derrychineseschool.org.

• **CHINESE** classes at several locations in NH, including Exeter, Meredith, Nashua and Concord. Classes include conversational Chinese for young learners, as well as advanced study of Chinese language and literature. To register contact Ying Xia Peterson at 224-0164 or yxpeterson@comcast.net.

• **CHINESE MANDARIN** classes at New Hampshire Chinese School (in Concord at West Congregational Church, 499 North State St.; in Nashua at Girls Inc. of NH, 27 Burke St.; in Manchester, Belknap Hall at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 N. River Road) on weeknights and Saturdays. Levels range from preschool to adult, beginner to advanced. Classes run yearround. Visit www.nhChineseSchool.org or call 888-262-1993.

• **ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Meets Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Visit www.nashualibrary.org/directions.htm or call Carol at 589-4610.

• **ESPERANTO** international language courses at the American-Canadian Genealogical Society, 4 Elm St. in Manchester. Register by e-mail to Jack Stanton at cw3jack_stan@mindspring.com.

• **FRENCH** Franco-American Centre (Manchester, 669-4045, facnh.com) offers classes for beginner through advanced speakers and classes for children.

• **FRENCH** Club Richelieu of Nashua for French-speakers in Greater Nashua holds dinner meetings at 6 p.m. on second Wednesdays at the Radisson, 11 Tara Blvd. in Nashua. Call 889-7112.

• **FRENCH** Gens-Unis du Richelieu meets monthly at Sunrise Grille, 141 Main St., Suncook, at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Dinner meetings include a speaker and lively French conversation. The cost is $15. To make reservations, call 485-7171 or 624-1545 no later than the preceding Friday.

• **FRENCH LESSONS** at the Franco-American Centre (52 Concord St., Manchester, 669-4045, www.facnh.com). After-school French will be offered for school-age children (8+) on Mondays, 4-5 p.m. Details are available at the website. For specific questions, contact Pauline Guimond Grant at 623-1093 or e-mail acpgrant@comcast.net. Tuition is $250 for 10 weeks. Most classes are 75 minutes. There is a mandatory yearly student Centre membership fee of $35. To register, call the Centre or e-mail lsutton@facnh.com.

• **GENS-UNIS DU RICHELIEU FRENCH CLUB** meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Pembroke Library. Dinner meetings include a speaker and lively French conversation. The cost is $15. No experience necessary. Call John at 204-7680 or Georgette at 485-7171 no later than the preceding Friday.

• **GERMAN** Stammtisch, a dinner and conversation group for all German speakers, meets every Wednesday at 9 p.m. at a local restaurant. This program reaches out to the German speaking and German learning community. If your German is rusty, here is an opportunity to exercise it. If you are fluent you can help a beginner. If you are taking German in high school this will increase your momentum. E-mail wikki@netzero.net about joining.

• **GERMAN** NHGA German School offers classes for adult beginners with no knowledge of German, those with limited abilities, and those at advanced levels. Classes are conducted using German textbooks in an informal, speech-intensive manner, emphasizing German conversation, traditions and culture. Visit nhgerman.org.

• **GREEK** Free modern Greek language lessons for adults, intermediate level. Call 497-4581.

• **HEBREW** at Congregation Betenu (5 Northern Blvd, Amherst, 886-1633, www.betenu.org). Hebrew language instruction, Torah and Jewish studies for adults on Monday evenings. Call 886-1633 or email betenu@nii.net.

• **HEBREW** at Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry. Hebrew night school on Tuesday evenings. Visit etzhayim.org

• **IRISH** Conradh na Gaeilge of New England, a nonprofit Irish language organization, offers Irish language classes in Manchester. Call 627-6651 or visit www.gaeilge.org.

• **ITALIAN** conversation group at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St. Meets Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Contact Carol at carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org or 589-4610.

• **ITALIAN** Parliamo Italiano, Italian-speaking group, meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m. at Bedford Library (3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford). Call 471-0308.

• **ITALIAN** Bedford Italian Cultural Society will hold monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the McAllister Room of the Bedford Public Library on Meetinghouse Road, 7 p.m. Italian chat sessions meet one-half hour earlier. Membership is $15 per year. Contact Virginia at 472-2592 or visit BICS website at www.bics-nh.org.

• **LITHUANIAN** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Meets Saturdays at 10 a.m. Visit www.nashualibrary.org/directions.htm or call Carol at 589-4610.

• **MODERN GREEK** classes for adults meet Mondays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral (650 Hanover St., Manchester). Reinforce and review your conversation & writing skills. Free. Call 497-4581.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** Concord Community Education (170 Warren St., 225-0804, classesforlife.com) regularly offers courses in languages.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** "I Can Speak" language-learning software is available at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org) for Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Russian and Portuguese. The software consists of 20 to 40 hours of intro material using listening, speaking, reading and writing exercises.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES ONLINE** at Rodgers Memorial Library, Derry Road, Hudson. Mango Language Learning System

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CAR TALK BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

Brake-line problems probably not only problems with older car

Dear Tom and Ray:

We have a 1996 Plymouth Voyager with more than 130,000 miles on it that I use to transport our kids everywhere. On four separate occasions, the brakes have failed completely with absolutely NO warning ... no warning light, no gradual diminution of brake function, just "Now you have 'em, now you don't." Each time, it was revealed that a brake line had snapped (and each time, the offending line was replaced). This also happened once with a steering line (the steering wheel locked in traffic). I feel the van is unsafe to drive, and would like to replace it with another vehicle. My husband insists that as long as the brake lines are replaced, it's safe to drive. What do you think? Have you ever heard of this problem before with this make of vehicle? PLEASE ANSWER! — Alexis

RAY: We replace miles of rusted-out brake lines and fuel lines every year.

TOM: And your husband technically is correct — once all of those lines are replaced, they shouldn't break again for a long time. So the car CAN be made safe.

RAY: But here's the mistake he made — and why you're driving around in terror: Once one of the brake lines failed, he should have insisted that all of them be checked and replaced immediately.

TOM: The car is a decade and a half old. If one brake line has rotted away due to age, weather and road conditions, don't you think the other brake lines are in approximately the same condition? After all, they've spent the past 15 years under the same car!

RAY: In fact, because we work in an area where the roads are salted during winter snowstorms, we pre-emptively check our customers' brake and fuel lines as their cars get older.

TOM: So it sounds like your husband is not big on pre-emptive maintenance. But because it's your life and the lives of your kids at stake, you have to insist that he get religion.

RAY: You need to have a mechanic check all the brake lines and fuel lines. Now that the power-steering line has been replaced, that shouldn't be a problem for a while. But the mechanic also needs to check everything else that wears out on an old car: the ball joints, the other steering components, the shocks and springs, the brakes, the tires, the amount of rust on the frame, mildew on the fuzzy dice — everything.

TOM: And you need to get a list from him of everything that needs to be replaced in order to make the car safe, along with an estimate of what it'll cost.

RAY: Then you and your husband can sit down with that number, and decide whether you'd rather put that money into making your old van safe, or whether it's time to put it into a newer, more reliable car.

TOM: And if you want to make your opinion clear, Alexis, be sure to slip a brochure for a 2012 Honda Odyssey under the last page of the repair estimate.

Dear Tom and Ray:

Every year we face the pothole issue. However, this year seems to be the worst in recent memory. Potholes are so big this year where I live that they've been given names, like the craters on the moon. Did I forget to mention that you need a trunk full of spare tires? Today I was following an octogenarian driver, and at each pothole, she came to a complete stop and then, at a snail's pace, drove through the pothole. I lost sight of her for a moment when she was all the way down in the hole, but picked her up again as she was climbing out. Being a relative spring chicken (54), I gunned through the pothole to get through it as quickly as possible. This action left me with the question I now pose to you: When facing this road nemesis, is it better to drive slowly through potholes, or throw caution to the wind (as well as money to your mechanic) and speed through them? Of course, it goes without saying that avoiding the potholes in the first place is preferred. — Gary

RAY: The old lady is right, Gary.

TOM: If I were to put the heel of my palm under your chin and very slowly push up so that, eventually, your head was tilted back, would it hurt? No. It'd be a little strange. And you'd be well within your rights to wonder why the hell I was pushing your head back.

RAY: But if that's what it's like going slowly through a pothole, going fast is like taking a sucker punch under the chin. It may be over faster, but you're also likely to loosen up some teeth, bite your tongue and scatter a few brain cells.

TOM: The same is true for your car when you hit a pothole at high speed. You could bend a rim, bend a control arm, break a spring or just whack all of those things and make them weaker or looser so they wear out or fall off sooner.

RAY: And by the way, Gary, if you do what your octogenarian friend does, you'll no longer need that trunk full of spare tires.

Stop the madness! You can stop driving like a knucklehead, and you'll help your car in the process. Learn how your driving habits can harm your car in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send $4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? E-mail Click and Clack by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

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teaches foreign language (Spanish, French, Italian, German, Japanese, Chinese, and Russian) and ESL conversational skills. Can visit library or log on from home through the library's website at www.rodgerslibrary.org. Call 886-6030.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES ONLINE** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford. Includes Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Haitian Creole, French, Irish and Greek. Free for library cardholders. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **SPANISH** conversation group at Nashua Library (2 Court St., Nashua) meets Tuesday nights, 7 -8:30 p.m. Each meeting will have a theme, giving people with intermediate skills an opportunity to practice the language. Call Carol at 589-4610.

• **SPANISH CONVERSATION** Adult Learning Center, 4 Lake St., Nashua. Six-week class will meet once a week and focus on listening and speaking Spanish and on cultural awareness skills. Register between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Learning Center or call at 882-9080 ext. 201. The cost of the course is $90 plus a book fee.

OVER 50

Social activities

• **ART ALLIANCE OF NORTHERN NH** provides workshops for seniors. Call 837-2275 or eileen@aannh.org. Visit www.aannh.org for Arts & Health for Seniors at The Morrison.

• **BENTLEY COMMONS** (66 Hawthorne Dr., in Bedford, www.bentley-commons.com/bedford, 644-2200) an assisted living community offering activities, and events. Visit their website for a full calendar of events.

• **CENTENNIAL SENIOR CENTER** (West St. Ward House, 41 West St., in Concord, 228-6830, info@centennialseniorcenter.org, www.centennialcenter.org) offers meet and greet, card games, bingo and other activities. Open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9 a.m.-noon.

• **CONCORD SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS** are offered by the City of Concord's recreation department (www.concord.com/recreation), usually at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers at 48 Airport Road in Concord. The center is open Mon., Wed. and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and offers a variety of activities including cards, crafts, bingo and dancing. The Sunset Club (for members 55 and older) meets twice a month for meals and speakers and occasionally day trips.

• **MUSIC CLASS** keyboard classes on Thursdays, one class at noon and another at 1 p.m., cost is $15 for 6 weeks for members, $20 for non-members. Contact Helen Hiller at Darrell's Music Hall at 886-1748.

• **NASHUA SENIOR CENTER** (70 Temple St. In Nashua, 889-6155, www.nashuaseniorcenter.org) offers activities for anyone 50 and older from the greater Nashua area (Amherst, Hudson, Litchfield, Merrimack, Milford and Nashua). Fitness-related activities include aerobics, Tai Chi, yoga, Pilates, walking, golf, bowling, ping pong, billiards and dancing as well as access to the senior center fitness room. Other activities include computers, photography, cards, needlework, chorus, bingo, movies, Spanish classes, cooking classes and more.

• **NH ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR CENTERS** offers links to a variety of information on senior services and senior centers at www.nhasc.org.

• **RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION** meets the third Tues. of each month at 195 McGregor St., Manchester. Call 391-1663 or e-mail EJH@Juno.com.

• **SENIOR BRIDGE CLUB** at Wadleigh Library (39 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, www.wadleigh.lib.nh.us) on Mondays, 9:30 a.m.-noon. New members welcome. Contact Loretta Aveni at 673-1448.

• **SUNSET CLUB** for Concord seniors meets at Green Street Community Center (39 Green St., Concord. Call 225-8690.

• **WILLIAM B. CASHIN SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER** (151 Douglas St. in Manchester, 624-6536, www.manchesternh.gov) offers a variety of activities and classes including crafts, fitness, dance, card games, Wii and trips. Call for info.

NATURE & GARDENING

• **Amoskeag Fishways**
6 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-FISH, amoskeagfishways.org

• **Beaver Brook Association**
117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org,

• **Charmingfare Farm**
Route 27, Candia, 483-5623, visitthefarm.com

• **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center**
2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-STAR, starhop.com

• **Educational Farm at Joppa Hill**
174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, 472-4724, theeducationalfarm.org

• **Friends of Stark Park**
North River Road, Manchester, 645-6700, friendsofstarkpark.org

• **Londonderry Trailways**
PO Box 389, Londonderry, londonderrytrails.org

• **Manchester Historic Association**
129 Amherst St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org

• **Massabesic Audubon Center**
26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhudubon.org

• **McLane Center**
84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhudubon.org

• **Peabody Mill**
Environmental Center 66 Brook Rd, Amherst, 673-1141, pmec.org

• **Seacoast Science Center**
570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org

• **Society for the Protection of NH Forests**
224-9945, spnhf.org

Animals/insects/plants

• **COMMON NIGHTHAWK OVER CONCORD** Concord Public Library Auditorium, 45 Green St., Concord, Tues., May 3, 7 p.m. Join Becky Suomala for a program about the state-endangered Common Nighthawk and the effort to install gravel nest patches on roof tops in Concord. The Common Nighthawk is declining throughout its range and biologists do not know why. Free and open to the public. Call 230-3682

• **WILD URBAN PLANTS** NHTI, Concord Community College, 31 College Drive, Concord, Tues., May 3, 7 p.m. The final installment of the Wings of Knowledge lecture series. When is a weed not a weed? When it is "spontaneous urban vegetation," or perhaps even part of a "cosmopolitan urban meadow"? Dr. Peter Del Tredici will teach about how to appreciate and even benefit from a variety of plants that have moved into our neighborhoods – usually without invitation. Call 271-7186 or visit www.nhti.edu

• **COASTAL BIRDING TRIP** Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way in Auburn, Wednesday, May 18, 9 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Enjoy birding from the comfort of your car with JoAnn O'Shaughnessy. Meet at Hampton Beach State Park parking lot at 9 a.m. and carpool from there to coastal hot spots. Lunch is not provided, but the group will stop at a local restaurant to cap off the morning's adventure. Meet at 7:45 a.m. in the Massabesic Audubon parking lot if you want to carpool with other participants to Hampton. Maximum of 24 people. Pre-registration required. $9 per person. Call 668-2045 to register.

• **POND PROBE** Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, Sat., May 21, 2:30-4 p.m. Take an early look at who's awake in the pond. Scoop out some water to identify insects and look for frogs and turtles. $9 for individuals or $12 for families. Call 668-2045.

• **CREATURES OF THE NIGHT CAMPFIRE** Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, Fri., May 27, 7-9 p.m. A celebration of nocturnal animals. Watch the owl get dinner, look for bats in the fields, listen for frogs at the ponds and keep the mosquitoes at bay around a campfire. Pre-registration is required. $8 for individuals or $12 for families. Call 668-2045 to register

• **BACKYARD BIRDING BASICS** at Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way in Auburn, www.nhaudubon.org, 668-2045, every Sunday at 2 p.m. Learn how to identify local backyard birds. Binoculars and field guides will be on hand. $5.

• **RAVEN FEEDING** at the Massabesic Audubon Center (26 Audubon Way, Amherst, 668-2045, nhaudubon.org) every Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Watch as feeders give the raven his daily meal. Free.

• **SNAKE FEEDING** at the Massabesic Audubon Center (26 Audubon Way, Amherst, 668-2045, nhaudubon.org) every Sunday, 11:30 a.m. Watch the ball pythons eat lunch and even get to touch them. Free.

Hiking, hikes & walks

• **FANTASTIC FROGS NIGHT WALK** Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, Fri., May 6, 7:30-9 p.m. Discover who's out at night with a walk to our wet places. Learn to identify native frog species by sight and sound. Bring a flashlight. $9 for individuals or $12 for families. Call 668-2045.

• **NATURE WALKS** Join the NH Audubon's Nashaway Chapter for morning adventure walks at Ponemah Bog in Amherst. Bring binoculars and bug spray, and wear shoes you don't mind getting wet. Free and open to the public. The entrance to the bog is on Rhodora Drive, off Stearns Road, which runs between Boston Post Road and Route 122, just north of Route 101A in Amherst. For questions, contact Jack Gleason 673-3177 or e-mail jgleason10@netzero.net. For information about the bog, visit www.nhaudubon.org/sanctuary_amhe.php.

Outdoors

• **ACTIVE TIMBER HARVEST TOUR** Woodman Forest, Boscawen, Sat., May 15, 9 a.m.-noon. Meet Jack and Jake Bronnenberg from Bronnenberg Logging and Trucking. Learn about forest management in relation to improving timber quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation, and get the latest news about logging practices, equipment, wood products, and the timber markets where products are shipped and sold. Forest Society staff

In the spotlight

Cats! (not the musical)

The Seacoast Cat Club will hold its annual All Breed & Specialist Show on Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Road in Concord. Tickets cost $7 ($4 for children and seniors). Call 526-4688 or visit www.seacoastcatclub.org.

will share the site-specific forestry and wildlife habitat goals, as well as site considerations and management planning. Merrimack County Forester Tim Fleury will provide information on the NH Tree Farm program and natural resource assistance available to forest landowners. Pre-registration for this timber harvest tour, which includes easy hiking, is required. E-mail signup@forestsociety.org or call Tina at 224-9945 ext. 313.

• **BOATING EDUCATION** classes through the state's Department of Safety. One-full-day Saturday classes and two-day weeknight classes are available at locations around the state through the fall. Classes cost $30. Call 267-7256 or see www.nhboatingeducation.com for times and locations.

• **GPS RENTALS** every Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m., at Peabody Mill Environmental Center in Amherst. Cost is $10.

• **LONDONDERRY TRAILWAYS** nonprofit organization staffed by volunteers working to make Londonderry more accessible to pedestrians and bicycles. The group improves and maintains trail systems throughout 900+ acres of conservation land within the town of Londonderry. Visit londonderrytrails.org.

• **MANCHESTER CEDAR SWAMP** conservatory area on Hackett Hill Road in Manchester offers a 602-acre ecological preserve with established trails. Follow Hackett Hill Road to Countryside Boulevard and watch for the trailhead.

• **MCLANE CENTER** (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, newhampshireaudubon.org) offers trails for hiking and searching out wildlife.

• **WHITE PARK POND** (Washington and White streets in Concord, www.onconcord.com/recreation) offers a tree trail — see a map online.

SPORTS & RECREATION

• **Bow Recreation Department**
2 Knox Road, Bow, 228-2222, bowparksandrecreation.com

• **Candia Woods Golf Links**
313 South Rd., Candia, 483-2307, candiawoods.com

• **Concord Recreation Dept.**
onconcord.com/recreation

• **Granite State Senior Games**
11 Stagecoach Way, Manchester, 622-9041,nhseniorgames.org

• **Granite State Wheelmen**
215 S. Broadway, Salem, 898-5479, granitestatewheelmen.org

• **McIntyre Ski Area**
Kennard Road in Manchester, 622-6159, mcintyreskiarea.com

• **Mine Falls Park**
Whipple Street in Nashua, Parks & Recreation, 589-3370

• **White Park Pond**
Washington and White streets in Concord, onconcord.com/recreation

• **YMCA**
30 Mechanic St., Manchester, 623-3558, gmfymca.org
6 Henry Clay Dr., Merrimack, 881-7778, nmymca.org
17 Prospect St., Nashua, 882-2011, nmymca.org
15 North State St., Concord, 228-9622, concordymca.org

Spectator sports

• **Manchester Freedom Football**
9 Notre Dame Ave., 627-7270, manchesterfreedom.com

• **Manchester Monarchs Hockey**
Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., monarchshockey.com, 626-7825

• **NH Fisher Cats Baseball**
1 Line Drive, Manchester, 641-2005, nhfishercats.com

• **Verizon Wireless Arena**
555 Elm St., Manchester, 868-7300, verizonwirelessarena.com

Biking/races

• **CYCLE THE SEACOAST** begins in Portsmouth, Sunday, May 1, with 25-, 50- and 100-mile options. $35 registration fee. Fundraising minimum is $250 for each participant. Visit www.action.lungusa.org.

Golf

• **YMCA GOLF TOURNAMENT** Sky Meadow Country Club, 6

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Treasure hunt

An antiques expert helps you search for buried treasure

Dear Donna,

Can you help us figure out what this is? My husband and I thought it might be for cigarettes but were not sure. It is 8 inches long closed and extends to about 12 inches open. We are not even sure what it is made of. Maybe gold and plastic?

This came from my side of the family but with no history. It was just in a box with other items so we really know nothing about it.

Linda in Manchester

Dear Linda,

I want to say that was a great guess on what you have. This looks so similar to a woman's cigarette holder.

What you have is actually used to hold opera glasses. If you look closely you can see the tiny plastic-type clips within the opening. Those were to hold the opera glasses. Then it was adjustable so that it could be used by anyone.

Opera glass holders have been around for a long time. Yours seem to be Victorian (middle to late 1800s). They could be gold but would have to be marked or tested to confirm that. The black part could be a plastic but is most likely gutta-percha (a plastic wood like material made from the sap of a tree), very popular during the Victorian period.

You don't find these as often as you find cigarette holders. The value on them varies with age, design and condition. Most of them are in the $150 range. If yours turns out to be gold, its value would be higher.

I hope now that you know what this is that maybe you will pick up a pair of opera glasses and display it together on a table in your home. This would make a great conversation piece.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor, a licensed auctioneer and a member of the N.H. Antiques Dealers Association. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or e-mail her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

Mountain Laurels Drive, Nashua, Mon., May 16. A scramble format with shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. The registration fee ($150 for an individual player and $600 for a foursome) includes lunch at 12:30 p.m. and use of range prior to the start of play, 18 holes of golf with cart, contests at every hole, on-course snacks and beverages, premium item to take home, sit down awards dinner in the ballroom, raffle, silent auction and more. Proceeds support the Y's Strong Kids Campaign. Register online at www.nmymca.org or at the Nashua or Merrimack branches.

Horseback riding

• **COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING DEMONSTRATION** Gelinas Farm, 471 4th Range Road, Pembroke, Sun., May 1, 10-11 a.m. Open house and a mounted cowboy demonstration, followed by a ranch versitilirty demo/clinic. Visit www.gelinasfarm.com

• **TOM CURTIN QUALITY HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC** Gelinas Farm, 471 4th Range Road, Pembroke, June 7-9: Ranch horse versality, June 10-12: Colt starting and horsemanship and June 13: Cow work. Tom Curtin has been teaching clinics since 2001. Visit www.tomcurtin.com

• **COWBOY RACE** Gelinas Farm, 471 4th Range Road, Pembroke, Sun., July 10. This race consists of a timed course in which you and your horse will be challenged to a variety of obstacles and activities, such as water crossings, tarps, roping, etc. Open to all levels, all disciplines and all breeds. Contact Eastern Mountain Ranch Horse at www.emrha.com

Runs/running/walks

• **MODERATE FITNESS HIKING** Beaver Brook Maple Hill Farm, 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, Fridays through May 27, 9- 11 a.m. These hikes will keep you constantly moving but at a moderately slow pace. Start out flat the first week but then we will add in some slight ups and downs. All hikes take place on Beaver Brook property and woodland trails. Rain will cancel. Adults only and no dogs. $20 per person.

• **SPRING/SUMMER WALKING PROGRAM** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays now through April 29 at 9 a.m. On Mondays walkers meet at the Whipple St. entrance to Mine Falls, Wednesdays at the Lincoln Park entrance to Mine Falls (on Coliseum Ave) and Fridays walkers meet at the beginning of the Nashua River Rail Trail at the intersection of Gilson Road & Countryside Dr. Walks are up to an hour and all levels of walkers are welcomed with different groups walking at different speeds and distances. Free and open to all.

• **TROT FOR TOTS** 1st Annual Run/Walk on Saturday May 7, 9 a.m. at Merrill Park in Concord. Cost is $20adults, $15 kids under 12. All proceeds to benefit East Concord Cooperative Preschool. Register at http://www.active.com/running/concord-nh/trot-for-tots-5k-runwalk-2011

• **WALK AGAINST HUNGER** Veteran's Memorial Park, Elm St., Manchester, Sun., May 15, 11 a.m. A four-mile walk in downtown Manchester is New Horizons for New Hampshires largest annual fundraiser. Last year the walk raised $100,000. There will be food, entertainment and kids activities. Rain or shine. Visit www.helpnewhorizons.org.

• **ROCK N RACE 5K** State House Plaza in downtown Concord, Thurs., May 19, 6 p.m. To benefit Concord Hospital Payson Center for Cancer Care. Live music and treats available for runners and walkers of the 5K. The Concord Hospital Trust is located at 250 Pleasant Street, Concord. Call 225.2711, ext. 3076 or visit www.ch-trust.org. Register at http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=462033.

• **DRAG-N-FLY 5K WALK/RUN** Deerfield Cooperative Preschool on Church Street in Deerfield, Sat., May 21, 8:30 a.m. Proceeds will benefit the Deerfield Cooperative Preschool and Easter Seals of New Hampshire, as well as contribute to the purchase of a piece of adaptive playground equipment for Deerfield Community School. Register online at http://www.dcpreschool.com/5k/ for registration forms or e-mail dragnfly5k@yahoo.com

• **FATHERS DAY 5K** Margarita's of Dover, Indian Brook Drive Dover, Sun., June 19, 8:30 a.m. A family friendly 5k featuring Margarita's style food and prizes. Wear a necktie in honor of Father's Day. Visit http://www.avisgoodwinchc.org.

• **HERO HALF MARATHON** Dartmouth College Green, Hanover, Sun., August 28, 8 a.m. A half marathon (13.1 miles) to benefit the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth Hitchcock (CHaD). The event will include an attempt to recapture the Guinness World Record for the "most people dressed as superheroes in one place at one time." Runners and walkers are invited to dress in superhero costumes. There will be a 1 mile family fun run as well. Register online at www.chadhalf.org or contact Tracey Jacobi at 650-3435.

The eye of Apple

They know if you've been bad or good

By John Andrews
jandrews@hippopress.com

You might have heard by now: your iPhone is tracking you.

The big news came last Wednesday, when a couple of Brits released a video showing how they could plot their travels on a map using a single file stored on their iPhone 4. The file is called consolidated.db, and as that two-letter extension implies, it's a database, storing information about cellular towers as your phone comes within range of them.

Every technology blog and news site has since been trying to parse exactly what this means. Is it the final proof that Apple is, indeed, evil? Is it one small piece of evidence supporting the overwhelming conclusion that privacy is dead? Is it yet more over-paranoid hype?

Step right up and get your 100-percent definitive answers here, folks.

First off, here's what this information is NOT:

• **New:** The current story, as Engadget.com points out, is about visualizing this data on a map. The existence and contents of consolidated.db has been known ever since iOS 4, the operating system on the iPhone 4, came out. Apple never really advertised this "feature," but it's been there all along. That there was little hubbub until the maps were shown says more about a public consuming news in pictures than it does about Apple.

• **Unique:** Guess what? Your cell phone company — be it AT&T, Sprint, Verizon or anyone else — knows where you are. It doesn't matter if your phone runs iOS, Android, S60, WebOS, the Blackberry operating system or simple non-smartphone software. The whole concept of cellular phones necessitates being able to connect to a specific device that can be in many locations. The phone connects with the nearest tower, and the tower knows that. Of course your service provider is going to know where you are; that's how they provide you with service.

That's not to say there's nothing worrying about having an unencrypted file with a record of your tower connections sitting on your phone. Anyone with access to your phone, or the computers to which you've synced it, now has that information.

… along with all your contacts. Sure, maybe they can reconstruct your daily schedule and follow you. But handing someone the phone numbers and addresses of the people most precious to you isn't exactly reassuring either. No matter what phone you have, maybe you shouldn't be letting it out of your sight, huh? Besides, there are other ways to look at consolidated.db.

• **It's a feature, not a bug.** Some people pay hundreds of dollars for GPS service on their phone, or for standalone GPS recorders that save their location every few minutes. Here's a device that's always been advertised as being able to do anything imaginable with the right app, and a tracking app is built right in! Suspect your sweetie of cheating? Buy them an iPhone and check the log! Really, it's a private eye's best friend.

• **Publicity brings scrutiny.** As I said earlier, this saved data has been known about since the current iPhone was released. It might not have gotten a lot of mainstream attention, but you can bet that sneaks with ill intent had taken note. Now that fear has been whipped up in the general populace, either Apple will make a change to the software or you can periodically delete the file yourself.

Now get out there and show your phone the world.

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MANCHESTER

• **900 DEGREES** 50 Dow St., 641-0900

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• **BILLY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL** 34 Tarrytown Road, 622-3644, billyssportsbar.com. Free.

• **DERRYFIELD COUNTRY CLUB** 625 Mammoth Road, 669-0235. Free.

• **EXTRA TOUCH GOURMET CAFE** 4 Hawthorne Drive, Bedford, 488-6620

• **HAROLD SQUARE** 226 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-7144, www.harold-square.com. Free.

• **HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 1701B Hooksett Road, 485-6092. Free.

• **JEWELL & THE BEANSTALK** 797 Somerville St., 624-3709. Free.

• **JILLIAN'S** 50 Phillippe Cote St. Free.

• **JIMMY'S HOUSE OF PIZZA**, 345 Kelly Street, 669-3310. Free.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** 405 Pine St.. Free. 624-65500.

• **NUTFIELD ALE & STEAKHOUSE** 55 John Devine Drive, 668-6110. Free for customers.

• **PANERA BREAD** 933 South Willow St, Manchester, 627-2443, and 7 Colby Ct., Bedford, 641-0500, panerabread.com, free.

• **PATIO & PAVILION RESTAURANTS** Hilton Garden Inn, 101 S. Commercial St., 669-2222. Free.

• **PENUCHE'S GRILL** 96 Hanover St., 626-9830.

• **POCHITO'S**, 33 S. Commercial St., 232-3054. Free.

• **REPUBLIC** 1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723

• **SHORTY'S**, Northside Plaza, 1050 Bicentennial Dr., Manchester, 625-1730, www.shortysmex.com. Free.

• **TWO FRIENDS BAGEL & DELI** 542 Mast Road, Goffstown, 627-6622, twofriendsbagel.com. Free.

• **VAN OTIS CAFE** 341 Elm St., 627-1611. Free.

• **WILD ROVER PUB** 21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722. Free.

• **YOUR SALON** 18 S. Commerical St. Free.

CONCORD

• **THE BARLEY HOUSE** 132 North Main St., 228-6363. Free.

• **CAFFENIO** 84 N. Main St., 229-0020, free

• **CENTENNIAL INN** 96 Pleasant St., 225-7102. Free to guests.

• **CHEERS DOWNTOWN BAR & GRILLE** 17 Depot St. 228-0180. Free.

• **COMMON MAN**, 25 Water St., 228-DINE. Free.

• **CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY** 45 Green St. Free.

• **CONCORD TIRE & AUTO** 63 Hall St., 224-2393. Free.

• **HERITAGE HARLEY-DAVIDSON**, 142 Manchester St., 1-800-HARLEY-1. Free

• **LIBERTY BOOK STORE** 75 Allison St. 223-0335

• **PANERA BREAD** 75 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8966, panerabread.com, free.

• **PENACOOK VILLAGE LAUNDROMAT** 285 Village Street, Penacook 340-0009

• **THE RODGERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY,** 194 Derry Road, Hudson 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org

• **SOUTH END VILLAGE LAUNDROMAT** 71 Downing St., 228-8768. Free.

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• **A & E ROASTERY** 131 Route 101A, Unit 2, Amherst, 578-3338, aeroastery.com. Free.

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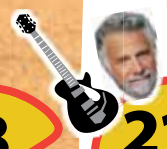

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2. A Caribbean Affair

TACO: **Island Twist Taco**
CHARITY: **Diabetes**

3. Baja's

TACO: **Mango Tango Taco (and Veggie Taco)**
Chicken, mango, onion, cilantro
CHARITY: **City Year, NH**

4. Breezeway Pub

TACO: **Breezeway Bombshell**
CHARITY: **G.M.A.P.**

5. Consuelo's

TACO: **Pastor Chilango**
Pork in Adobo sauce in a soft shell with onion cilantro and pineapple.
CHARITY: **Gr. Manchester AIDS Project**

6. Cotton

TACO: **Carne Asada**
Grilled marinated Brandt flat iron steak, black bean puree, onions, roasted tomato salsa and cotija cheese
CHARITY: **Kid's Cafe**

7. El R

TACO: **Pas (an**
marinated
CHARITY:

12. Hilton Garden

TACO: **Taco de Papas**
Potato and chorizo filling in soft shell with avocado lime sour cream, smoked tomato salsa and queso blanco
CHARITY: **CHAD**

13. Ignite

TACO: **Fish Taco**
CHARITY: **Elliot Regional Cancer**

14. Jillian's

TACO: **Appalaco Taco**
Apple dessert taco
CHARITY: **The Liberty house**

15. JW Hill's

TACO: **El Tiante**
Orange Chipotle Pork
CHARITY: **Kristen's Gift**

16. Lala's Hungarian

TACO: **Transylvanian Dessert Taco**
blueberry or cherry filling
CHARITY: **Wounded Warrior Project**

17. Milly's Tavern

TACO: **El Diablo**
Redtail Southwestern Chicken
CHARITY: **Manchester Animal Hospital**

18. Mi

TACO: **Roc Chi**
Soy ginger peanut coc "mantro fir
CHARITY:

23. Portland Pie

TACO: **Mahoosic Notch Taco**
Cheese, beef, salsa, 3 cheese blend, cilantro, crumbled tortilla chips.
CHARITY: **Polycystic Kidney Disease**

24. Pattie Shack

TACO: **Peachy Pork Chipotle**
Hot peachy, pork tacos sauteed with honey, hot salsa, red wine vinegar and garlic
CHARITY: **Make-a-Wish Foundation**

25. Strange Brew

TACO: **World's Fastest Indian Taco**
Smoked Pork
CHARITY: **Manchester PAL**

26. Tedy J's

TACO: **Chicken Souvlaki Taco**
CHARITY: **Manchester Boys & Girls Club**

27. The Red Arrow

TACO: **Moe's Buffalo Chicken Taco**
CHARITY: **Challenger Sports Charity**

28. Varick's

TACO: **Chicken Tender Taco**
Buffalo chicken in a soft or hard shell taco with cheese. Sour cream and salsa to taste
CHARITY: **ASPCA & CHAD**

29. W

TACO: **Na Chi**
Manchest taco form
CHARITY: **Foundat**

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r @hippotaco More details at hippodemayo.com

Rincon

stor
d Veggie Taco)
pork with lime & cilantro
St. Augustine Church

8. Firefly

TACO: **Tequila Lime Steak Taco**
CHARITY: **Granite State United Way**

9. Fratello's

TACO: **Taco Del Fratello - Chicken Caprese**
Marinated chicken, fresh buffalo Mozzarella, roma tomatoes on homemade roasred garlic sundried tomatoes & fresh basil taco shell
CHARITY: **CASA**

10. Gauchos

TACO: **Gaucho Taco**
CHARITY: **Upreach Therapeutic Riding Center**

11. Greg's Place

TACO: **Thai Coconut Curry Shrimp Taco**
Thai red curry & coconut shrimp with asian bok choy slaw
CHARITY: **ASPCA**

int Bistro

ckstar Asian
icken Taco
chicken, cabbage slaw, toasted
onut sauce, daikon, carrot and cilantro
e" lime aioli and crispy wontons
Chabad Lubavitch of NH

19. Murphy's Taproom

TACO: **Cochinta Pibli Pork Taco**
Cilantro grilled chicken with avocado mousse, smoked tomato and pepper jack fondue in a soft taco
CHARITY: **Emily's Place**

20. Nicky D's

TACO: **Italian Sausage Taco**
Italian sausage in fra diablo sauce with cheese and fresh onion, peppers, tomatos and cellery wrapped in a soft taco
CHARITY: **V.A Medical Center**

21. Black Brimmer

TACOS: **Taco Blanco & Veggie Taco**
- *Chicken and pork in a soft corn tortilla topped with lettuce, tomato and sour cream*
- *Black beans in a soft corn tortilla topped with lettuce, tomato and sour cream*

CHARITIES: **NH Charitable Fdn., William A. McDonald Memorial**

22. Pochito's

TACO: **Pochito's Taco**
Grilled ground beef, lettuce & cheese
CHARITY: **Noah's Ark**

ild Rover

cho Crusted
icken Taco
r's Best Sandwich 2011, now in
St. Baldrick's ion

30. Z Food & Drink

TACO: **El Pato Taco**
Hoisen glazed Duck confit, Siracha sour cream, pickled cabbage, avocados, tortilla
CHARITY: **NH Food Bank**

31. Republic Cafe

TACO: **Souvlaki Taco & Falafel Taco**
Marinated chicken, fresh buffalo Mozzarella, roma tomatoes on homemade roasred garlic sundried tomatoes & fresh basil taco shell
CHARITY: **CASA**

32. J. Dubs

SPECIAL:
Mexican Coffee

33. Karma

SPECIAL:
Tequila & Cigar Flight
Te-Amo Cigar with Cuervo tasting flight

The Most Interesting Man In The World Look-Alike Contest!

at the Black Brimmer!

069315

Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

• **Are you up for the challenge?** Great American Subs, 41 Crystal Ave., Derry, 965-4120, is challenging single diners to eat a 21-inch Sawbuck (steak and cheese sub), a pound and a half of french fries and a pitcher of soda in 30 minutes. Those who conquer the challenge receive their meal for free and get to sign the "Wall of Fame" board at the eatery.

• **A taste of Italy:** WineNot Boutique, 170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, www.winenotboutique.com, will offer a "Wines of Italy" class on Saturday, April 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. Seven Italian wines will be tasted and discussed during the class. The course costs $40 and registration is required.

• **Wine at the Whittemore:** The University of New Hampshire Department of Hospitality Management and Horizon Beverages will host the first annual Vin Expo NH at the Whittemore Center Arena, 128 Main St., Durham, on Tuesday, May 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event will feature hundreds of wines, hors d'oeuvres, carving stations, international cheeses and live music. Tickets cost $35 (students 21 and older will receive a discount) at www.events.unh.edu. Proceeds from the event will go to scholarships for hospitality management students.

• **Support a cause on Cinco de Mayo:** Families in Transition, a Manchester- and Concord-based provider of services to homeless families, will host its annual Cinco De Mayo celebration at the Brady Sullivan Building, 1000 Elm St., Manchester, on Thursday, May 5, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. The event will feature drinks, music, dancing and light Mexican fare from Hanover Street Chophouse in Manchester. Tickets cost $30 at www.fitnh.org/cinco.

• **It's a Cinco de Mayo feline fiesta:** The Animal Rescue League of NH, 545 Route 101, Bedford, www.rescueleague.org, will offer $5 adoptions on all felines ages five and up at its Cinco de Meow-o event on Thursday, May 5, from 1 to 7 p.m. The adoption fiesta will feature food from Cactus Jack's.

• **How to make better food choices:** The Spinal Corrective Center, 1 Overlook Drive, Amherst, will host a "Food For Life" workshop on Thursday, May 5, from 6:15 to 7 p.m. At the free workshop, Jenny Cretsinger, Doctor of Chiropractic and national speaker for Food For Life, will show how to read food ingredient labels and improve food selections. Call 673-5600 or e-mail liveinsideout@live.com to reserve a spot.

• **Find your dream kitchen:** The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, will present the 20th Annual Kitchen Tour on Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The "City Living"-themed self-guided tour will take visitors through historic waterfront homes in the town. Dovetailed Kitchens, 126 Daniel St., will host lectures on countertop materials, renovating kitchens and kitchen design throughout the event. Tickets cost $23 ($25 the day of the event) at 436-2400 and www.themusichall.org. A VIP ticket is also available for $75 and includes sneak peeks of additional kitchens and a food and beverage reception at One Harbour Place.

• **Mother's Day eats part one:** The Bedford Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, www.bedfordvillageinn.com, will hold a Mother's Day brunch buffet on Sunday, May 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. in the great hall for $39 ($19.95 for children ages 4 to 10, free for children under 4). A four-course dinner will be offered in the main dining room from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. and feature entree selections of braised lamb shank, slow roasted sirloin, stuffed veal loin picatta, salmon filet newburg and mushroom and goat's milk strudel. Dinner costs $55 ($29 for children ages 4 to 10). An *a la carte* dinner will also be served in the Tavern from 2 to 6 p.m. Reservations are required for the great hall and dining room.

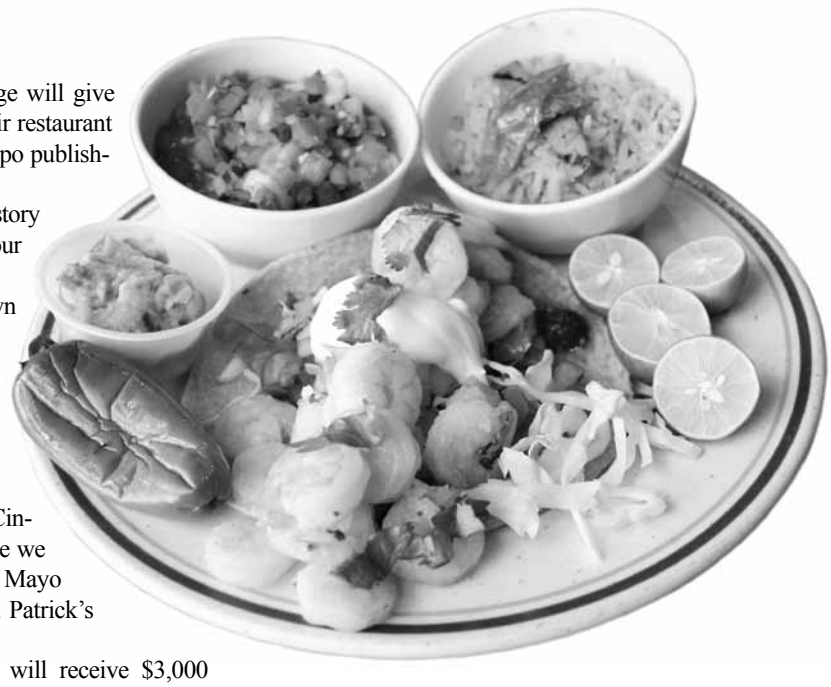
• **Mother's Day eats part two:** Brookstone Event Center, 14 Route 111, Derry, 328-9250, www.brookstone-park.com, will serve a Mothers Day brunch buffet on Sunday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The buffet will feature chicken marsala, garlic and herb-roasted beef and haddock, and traditional breakfast selections. The brunch costs $34.95 ($17.95 for children ages 3 to 12,

Continued on page 46

One night, more than 30 tacos

Eat your way through downtown Manchester at Hippo de Mayo Taco Challenge

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com



The Hippo de Mayo Taco Challenge will give Queen City chefs a chance to "put their restaurant personality up in taco lights," said Hippo publisher Jody Reese.

(And, yes, full disclosure, this is a story about a Hippo-run event. But the taco tour is open to all — no tickets required.)

More than 30 restaurants in downtown Manchester have signed on to throw their sombreros into the ring and put their best taco forward on Thursday, May 5, from 5 to 9 p.m. Each spot will sell its own version of the taco for $2 per taco.

"Manchester isn't known as a Cinco de Mayo town," Reese said. "I hope we can start a tradition so that Cinco de Mayo in Manchester becomes as large as St. Patrick's Day."

The winner of the taco challenge will receive $3,000 (donated by sponsors of the event), with $2,000 of the prize money going toward the restaurant's chosen charity.

"Tacos are really wonderful — they are a blank canvas," Reese said. "The definition is, basically, stuff inside a piece of bread."

As many downtown eateries do not even have tacos on their menus, Reese said he is glad to see restaurants putting together exciting and fun tacos for the event: "These are really creative people that want to take on the taco and make it their own," Reese said. A few restaurants have even opted to create a dessert taco for the event, such as the Applelaco taco at Jillian's (50 Philippe Cote St., Manchester), which has selected The Liberty House as its charity. "We love a good creative challenge," said Wendy Colby Fisher, Jillian's event sales manager. "We want to win and we want to win for The Liberty House."

Some restaurants are so excited about the taco tour, which Reese said may be the first of its kind, that they are adding special dishes to their menus for the evening.

In addition to his competition taco, Jeff Paige, owner of Cotton (75 Arms. St., Manchester), plans to offer a special menu featuring Tortilla Soup, Chicken Avocado Tostada (crispy tortilla, lettuce, salsa fresca, avocado, Jack cheese, shredded chicken, sour cream and scallions), Coffee-rubbed Pork Roast with Ancho Mushroom Sauce, Veracruz-style Baked Red Snapper (crushed tomatoes, green olives, capers, cinnamon) and, for dessert, Traditional Flan and Cinnamon Sugar-Dusted Churros with Mexican Chocolate Fondue. Cotton mixologist Peaches Paige said she plans to create a special cocktail with hibiscus tequila with blue agave.

The taco tour will give Tom Puskarich, chef and owner of Z Food & Drink (860 Elm St., Manchester) a chance to showcase his new taco menu, which will be a permanent addition to his offerings. The new menu, which Puskarich said he planned before the challenge was announced, will feature beef tongue, crispy pork belly, duck and veggie tacos.

"Tacos provided an avenue for me to shake up my menu here," Puskarich said.

Pop-up bands, which Reese described as musicians grouped for the first time specifically for this event, will perform traditional and modern music at Jillian's, Strange Brew, the Black Brimmer and Murphy's, from 6 to 10 p.m., or until the venue's scheduled band takes the stage. "The whole point of this is fun," Reese said.

As part of a promotion with the event's beer sponsor, a stand-up cardboard version of the "Most Interesting Man in the World" — the face of Dos Equis, known for his catch phrase "stay thirsty, my friends" — will be at various locations throughout the tour for photo opportunities. Many locations will host the "Most Interesting Man in the World," but the main event, the "Most Interesting Man in the World" lookalike contest, will be held at the Black Brimmer at 9:30 p.m. The winner will take home a framed portrait of the "Most Interesting Man in the World" and a $100 gas card.

Jay Baldassara, sales manager Great State Beverage, who will oversee the Most Interesting Man competition, said he and his staff will vote but ultimately the crowd will decide which contestant bears the closest resemblance to the face of Dos Equis.

"It's sort of a fun, goofy thing that speaks to the lightheartedness of the event," Reese said. Cuervo Silver will also offer specialty drinks at a few tour stops.

Taco tourists will be able to vote for their favorites on their cell phones using the phone numbers that will appear on the tour maps.

"It will be a bit like *American Idol* but with tacos," Reese said. Each person will get 10 votes, which Reese said will allow them to spread out their support for their favorite tacos throughout the three-hour event. Votes can also be used to support the creative Cuervo libations that will be served at many of the tour's stops.

The results will be texted to voters around 10 p.m. on the night of the event, Reese said. The results will also be posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/hippodemayo) and Twitter (@hippotaco).

Hippo de Mayo
When: Thursday, May 5, from 5 to 9 p.m.
Where: Downtown Manchester
Tacos: Participating restaurants include 900 Degrees Pizzeria, A Caribbean Affair, Black Brimmer American Bar, Breezeway Pub, Consuelo's Taqueria, Cotton, Firefly American Bistro & Bar, Fratello's Italian Grille, Gauchos Churrascaria Brazillian Steak House, Greg's Place, Hilton Garden Inn, Ignite Bar & Grille, Jillian's, J.W. Hill's Sports Bar & Grill, LaLa's Hungarian Pastry, Milly's Tavern, Mint Bistro, Murphy's Taproom, Nicky D's Pasta Villa, Pattie Shack, Pochito's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina, Portland Pie Company, Republic café, Strange Brew Tavern, Teddy J's, The Red Arrow Diner, Varick's Restaurant & Sports Bar, Wild Rover Pub and Z Food and Drink. J. Dub's Coffee will serve a special Mexican coffee, and Karma Cigar & Retail Hookah Lounge will offer a cigar and tequila flight.
More info: See a map on pages 36 and 37 of this paper or go to www.facebook.com/hippodemayo.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH
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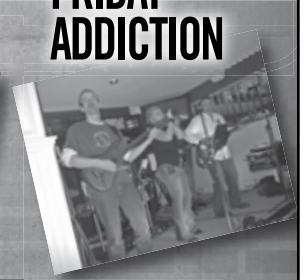
SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH
FRIDAY ADDICTION



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Seaweed for dinner

It's nutritious and delicious, says Maine expert

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Seaweed has always been a cooking staple in Asia and has made its way to the United States in forms other than sushi, miso soup and seaweed salad.

"We've just always used seaweed; we just started cooking it and inventing things," said Nina Crocker of The Seaweed Man in Steuben, Maine. "We got tired of the same old things that people always think of when they think of seaweed."

Crocker and her partner Larch Hanson will present "Seaweed as Food and Medicine" at Herbal Energetics in Northfield on Saturday, April 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. Hanson has more than 40 years of experience harvesting seaweed.

"If people are just getting used to the idea of using seaweed, they can put into food where they won't notice it very much," Crocker said. "Some people that are rather 'yuck' about seaweed add it in at the beginning of cooking chili. You can take the dry seaweed and snip it right in with other ingredients."

It takes 45 minutes of cooking seaweed, particularly kelp, to make it soft and to get the nutrients to come out, Crocker said.

Crocker warned against gathering your own seaweed from the beach, unless it is after a big storm, because when seaweed is left in the sun for too long its nutrients start to decompose and the bacteria count goes up. "It's like if you had vegetables laying on the beach for a half a day in the sun — they just won't be as good," she said. "Big storms tear a lot of things loose and you can get [seaweed] while it's still cold."

Seaweed sold at The Seaweed Man is collected from the coast of Maine, an hour north of Acadia National Park, where kelp beds lie near the tip of a peninsula. "There is no shipping here, no factories, no cities anywhere around," Crocker said.

"Seaweed," Crocker said, is an all-encompassing term for plants growing in the ocean. "It's all algae — it doesn't look like algae, does it? But it is in the algae family," she said.

Kelp (a large, heavy brown plant that grows at the bottom of the ocean), alaria (a brown seaweed found on ledges that are exposed during low tide), nori (a red seaweed found on rocks in the "splash zone" that is used to make sushi paper) and dulse (another red seaweed with a tissue paper-like texture) are a few varieties found in the Atlantic Ocean.

"They all have a different flavor profile. It's like describing how a banana tastes … how do you describe that?" Crocker said. "Seaweed doesn't taste fishy … it has a savory quality."

Alginates found in kelp improve the texture of hair and skin. Kelp also has a balanced range of minerals and sea salts (not just sodium) and a high iodine content. Alaria is very high in calcium and has a good balance of minerals, Crocker said. Nori, she noted, is high in protein and vitamins A, B6 and C. Dulse is known for its anti-viral properties.

Crocker often uses two kinds of kelp and alaria in soups and nori in her stir fry. For seaweed-cooking beginners, Crocker suggested adding a little to spaghetti sauce or sautéed vegetables to take advantage of some of the plant's health benefits. There are even dessert recipes calling for powdered seaweed, she said.

"When you put a little seaweed in, even if it's just a little, it has a special something that makes the food taste better," Crocker said.

Irish Soda Bread is often made with dulse in Ireland. "There is a very strong cultural history of using seaweed and cooking with it in Ireland," Crocker said. "They've done it for many centuries." The Irish, she added, also mix dulse into their home fries: "They lay it on the potatoes and it just melts right into it." Some people even eat dulse by the bag, like potato chips, she added.

Seaweed has become popular with those on a raw food diet, Crocker noted.

Alyssa Brown of Manchester, who teaches raw cooking courses, said seaweed is important for a raw diet because of its minerals and health benefits. Brown buys her seaweed from The Seaweed Man and locally at Saigon Asian Market in Manchester.

"It's fun to play with seaweed," Brown said. "It's something I really didn't know a lot about until I started with raw foods … sometimes when my body is really, really craving seaweed, I can tell that it really wants that supercharge of minerals."

Brown uses seaweed to make a salad with an Asian-style dressing made with coconut aminos and apple cider vinegar and also uses it to make a seaweed-based salad dressing. "It kind of has a thickening effect on food," she said. "You can use it in things like soup or salad dressing to add texture."

Dulse and kelp flakes, she added, can be used in lieu of salt, and whole leaf seaweed can work as a substitute for lettuce in a sandwich "just to throw in extra minerals," Brown said.

"It is easy to be intimidated by seaweed, but it would be a shame to let that keep you from its nutritional benefits," Brown added. "It is a powerhouse, nutritionally."

"Seaweed as Food & Medicine" with Larch Hanson and Nina Crocker
When: Saturday, April 30, from 6 to 8 p.m.
Where: Herbal Energetics, 32 Bay Hill Road, Northfield
Tickets: $35 at www.nofanh.org/herbworkshops

Kelp with rice

Courtesy of The Seaweed Man

2 Tablespoons olive oil
1 small sweet chopped onion
1 carrot, grated or chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
thyme to taste
½ cup soaked kelp, chopped
3 cups warm cooked brown rice
sea salt to taste
cayenne or fresh grated ginger juice to taste
1 Tablespoon roasted sesame seeds

Warm the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion, carrot, and garlic. Sprinkle with thyme, cook for 5 minutes or until softened. Stir in the kelp and cook for 2 minutes. Add the cooked rice, stir in the ginger juice or cayenne, sprinkle with salt and sesame seeds.

Food Listings

Farmers markets

• **MILFORD** winter farmers market from 9 a.m. to noon at the Milford Town Hall Auditorium will be held the first Saturday of each month through May (May 7). Items scheduled to be sold include elk, turkey, beef, pork and chicken, fresh eggs, milk, winter vegetables, canned preserves, baked goods and handcrafted items. See milfordmainstreet.org or call 672-4567.

• **FOOD MAPS** The NH chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association offers maps (available in print from NOFA-NH at 224-5022 or info@nofanh.org or in an interactive version at www.nofanh.org) showing locations of organically produced foods across the state. Online, click "Organic Farms and Land Care." The site lists farms by region and can narrow down the search by type of food.

• **NH ONLINE FARMERS MARKET** www.nhfarms.com offers links to NH farms selling fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, maple and honey products, flowers, baked goods and more.

CSAs

• **CHARMINGFARE FARM** in Candia offers three CSAs — a spring CSA, a summer CSA and a livestock CSA. The spring CSA starts May 11 and will run four or five weeks. The cost is $139 and pick up is Wednesday, 4 to 6 p.m. The summer CSA starts in June, runs 18 weeks and will cost $595 for a full share, $395 for a half share.

• **LOCAL HARVEST CSA** runs May through November and will offer three season plans this year — a three-week spring membership, an 18-week summer membership and a five-week fall membership, according to a press release. Call 731-5955 for details.

Festivals/cook-offs/expos/parties/book events

• **MEAD & CHOCOLATE** Dancing Lion Chocolate and Moonlight Meadery will host "Chocolate meets Mead: A Romance in Five Parts" at the Meadery, 23 Londonderry Road #17, Londonderry, on Sat., April 30, from 7 to 9 p.m. Five meads will be paired with five chocolates at the event, which will be guided by local wine expert Paulette Eschrich. Guests will also received a Dancing Lion Chocolate bonbon made with blueberry mead from Moonlight Meadery. Call 216-2162 to reserve a spot. Tickets cost $25.

• **CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION** The Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, www.concordfoodcoop.coop, will host "A Night in Old Mexico" free food celebration at its Celery Stick Café on Thurs., May 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will feature a beer and wine tasting, virgin margarita bar and such traditional Mexican dishes as chicken mole empanadas, vegetable ceviche, yucca fritters, fried plantains, goat quesadillas, carne asada and a taco bar (including fried cricket tacos!). A mariachi band will perform.

• **TASTE OF DOWNTOWN NASHUA** Tickets are now available for the Taste of Downtown Nashua, which will be held on Wed., June 1, from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets cost $25 in April and $30 in May at www.downtownnashua.org or 883-5700.

• **TASTE OF MILFORD** Tickets are on sale for the second annual Taste of Milford, which will be held at The Oval on Fri., June 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. Among the 20 participating restaurants will be Amigos Mexican Cantina, Chapangas, Foodee's, Giorgio's, The Pasta Loft, The Red Arrow Diner, The Rustic Leaf Bistro, Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills and Union Street Grill. Tickets cost $20 at www.milforddoit.org or 672-4567.

• **WOMEN AFTER WORK** is a free monthly series sponsored by T-Bones and hosted by WZID radio personality Tracy Caruso and Chef Nicole Barreira of T-Bones Great American Eatery and Cactus Jack's. The events offer culinary tips, cocktail creations and wine samplings one Thursday night a month. Look for door prizes, giveaways and recipes for attendees.

Chef events/special meals

• **RAW NIGHT** Z Food & Drink, 860 Elm St., Manchester, 629-9383, www.zfoodandrink.com, will host a "Raw Night" on Sat., April 30. The event menu will feature three raw appetizers, a soup and salad, two raw entrees selections and a dessert. Reservations are recommended.

• **GOURMET DINNERS** The University of New Hampshire Whittemore School of Business and Economics will host "Harmonious Flavors" gourmet dinners at Stillings Hall, 20 Ballard St., Durham, on Fri., April 29, and Sat., April 30, at 6 p.m. The students will prepare the meals alongside James Beard "Best Chef" Award winner Sam Hayward, of Fore Street Restaurant in Portland, Maine. The New Hampshire Gentleman, the UNH all-male a capella group, will perform. Tickets cost $60 at www.wsbe.unh.edu/gourmetdinner.

• **WINE DINNER** The Annual Evening of Compassion Wine Dinner Fundraiser to benefit the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire will be held at Bedford Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 296-3913, www.bedfordvillageinn.com, on Thurs., May 12, at 5:30 p.m. The four-course dinner will also give guests an opportunity to meet some animals up for adoption at the shelter. Tickets cost $85 at 472-5714 until May 2.

• **FUNDRAISING GALA** "An Evening of Old Hollywood Glamour" ballroom gala will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester, on Sat., May 21, from 6 to 11 p.m. The event will feature hors d' oeuvres, a three-course dinner and a performance by Rico Barr and the Jump 'N' Jive Review as well as local ballroom dancers. Tickets cost $55 until April 27, after which the price will increase to $60, at www.mealsonwheels.org or 424-9967. All proceeds benefit Meals On Wheels and Community Dining in Hillsborough County, provided by St. Joseph Community Services, Inc.

• **THE QUILL**, the hospitality restaurant at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 N. River Road in Manchester, www.snhu.edu/restaurant, offers a series of lunches (Tuesdays and Fridays) and dinners (Thursdays). The lunches for the spring semester will be American regional cuisine — the lunch series will start off with New England. Most of the dinners will have an international theme. Call 629-4608 or e-mail finedine@snhu.edu for reservations. Guests can bring their own wine to the dinners. See menus online.

Continued on page 46

In the spotlight

Hungry Girl 300 Under 300 **(by Lisa Lillien, 2011, St. Martin's Griffin, 542 pages)** Hungry Girl books make liberal use of reduced-fat and fat-free cheese and other dairy, sugar-free sweetners and other diet ingredients. While some whole-food-types might find this difficult, it does help you get items like Crispy Cheeseburger Pizza, Southwest Stuffed Tomatoes, and World's Easiest Chicken Empanadas down to or below 300 calories per serving. In addition to providing the nutrition information for each recipe, the book estimates prep and cook time and gives you a handy tools list.

Gluten-Free on a Shoestring: 125 Easy Recipes for Eating Well on the Cheap **(by Nicole Hunn, 2011, Da Capo Life Long, 257 pages)** Whether eating gluten-free is a medical necessity or a dietary choice, it's always nice to have more ideas to help you get the foods you want despite the restrictions. *Gluten-Free on a Shoestring* adds the "cheap" factor to its gluten advice — the book starts with a list of websites where you may be able to find coupons to facilitate cheaper purchases of these specialty items. Shopping and storing advice is also aimed at helping you get the most gluten-free bang for your buck. The recipes include dishes that aren't notably different from non-gluten-free dishes (tomato soup, pot roast) as well as oodles of baked goods and bread options.

— Amy Diaz

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That's a lot of coffee

Londonderry company has three world records

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Vanessa DelValle, of Manchester, puts together an Easter gift basket at Gourmet Gift Baskets in Londonderry. Angel Roy photo.

Not many people can say they have broken a Guinness World Record or even attempted to, but one Londonderry-based company has three on the books.

In less than two years, Gourmet Gift Baskets baked the World's Largest Cupcake (1,224 pounds) and brewed the World's Largest Cup of Coffee (2,010 gallons) and World's Largest Cup of Iced Coffee (1,500 gallons).

"We decided it would be a fun form of marketing for us," said Ryan Abood, who owns Gourmet Gift Baskets with his brother Ryan and mother Trudy. Abood said he and the staff decided to break records related to the gourmet gift industry. A list of records to break was pinned to a cork board and whatever idea the dart drove into they would take on as a challenge.

The company debuted its colossal cupcake at the Woodward Dream Cruise, a classic car event in Detroit, in August 2009 having put the plan together only 15 days earlier. The 1,224-pound cupcake crushed the previous record of 150 pounds. Abood said the cupcake's intended weight was 7,000 pounds, but even after 52 hours of baking, the three-and-a-half-ton treat had not yet cooked through, so with 22 hours before the big reveal, Abood, his staff and bakers from Meringue Bakery in California (whom he called in after seeing the enormous birthday cake they made for hotel heiress Paris Hilton) baked from scratch an entirely new record-breaking cupcake.

Both coffee records were broken last October at the Blog World convention in Las Vegas. For the hot java, Abood commissioned a company in Massachusetts to make a large farm-grade cylinder that was then sent to a Georgia-based business that wrapped the cylinder in foam and attached a handle to the eight-foot-tall, seven-foot-diameter mug. Two high-volume coffee makers, the kind often used at hospitals and convention centers, were contracted from Bunn, allowing Abood and his crew to brew 250 gallons of XCafe coffee an hour.

The previous hot coffee record was 911.5 gallons, but Jason Bergeron, Gourmet Gift Baskets marketing director, said the team was not taking any chances and set its sights for 2,010 gallons.

"We could have done close to 2,050," Bergeron said.

They had the cup, the coffee and the venue, so the team decided to try to beat the iced coffee record of 250 gallons, a feat that proved less easy than it sounded. The crew woke up at 4 a.m. to brew 1,800 gallons of coffee, leaving room for 500 pounds of ice. However, the ice melted instantly when it was added to the steaming java: "We were in trouble," Bergeron said. Bergeron and Abood then used hoses to siphon out 300 gallons of coffee into garbage cans. Twelve hours later, they were faced with their next roadblock: where would they find that much ice again in Vegas? The pair was able to secure 3,000 pounds of block ice from two area vendors. Each block was plopped in by hand, bringing the coffee up to the brim of the cup and breaking the record.

Abood said there are a handful of other world records he would like to break this year.

"We are going to spin the roulette wheel and whatever it lands on we will go after," he said. "That is what makes it fun for us."

Abood's brother opened Gourmet Gift Baskets on Londonderry Road in 2002 shortly after graduating from the College of Charleston in South Carolina. Ryan Abood had seen a billboard with the company name on it and knowing that he would be coming home to work at his parents' shop, Chalifour's Flowers, Gift & Gourmet in Manchester, he wanted to look into growing a similar business of his own, without the geographic restraints. Noticing the popularity of the fruit baskets at the shop, Ryan Abood decided to run with the idea and purchased the name Gourmet Gift Baskets from the man who posted the billboard down south.

Gourmet Gift Baskets focuses on being a national online retailer that sells baskets filled with other companies' top products, such as cocktail mixes, dips, rock candy, bath products, jams, beer and wine as well as novelty sports, seasonal and holiday-themed items. The company offers more than 300 basket "recipes," Bergeron said.

In December, Gourmet Gift Baskets ships just less than 10,000 baskets daily, with 1,000 of those filled with fruit. During the rest of the year, the company ships an average of 500 a day.

On the production table recently, Easter baskets (weighing in at 14 pounds) were being filled with stuffed animal rabbits, bubbles, plastic eggs, marshmallow Peeps and novelty toys.

"We don't do a lot of handled baskets, except at Easter because it is more traditional," Bergeron said.

Each basket is put through a shrink-wrapping machine (the only machine used in the process) and the wrap is then fitted to the basket by hand-held blow dryers. Bows are tied on each basket by hand, using six yards of four different colors of raffia. The company uses 2.64 million yards of raffia annually, Bergeron said.

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Getting kids cooking

Amherst woman introduces new generation to the kitchen

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Cathy Duchesne, owner of Kids Culinary Arts, helps Haley Black, 4, grate carrots during a preschool-age cooking class at Nini Bambini in Bedford. Angel Roy photo.

Aside from being a mother to her own daughter, Cathy Duchesne says, teaching children how to cook is the best job that she has ever had.

"It's just been so rewarding," said Duchesne, who started the Kids Culinary Arts program in Amherst two years ago. In the hands-on cooking classes, children ages three and up are taught not only the cooking process but also the nutritious side of working in the kitchen.

"Kids love being in the kitchen, it doesn't matter what they're making," Duchesne said. "I decided to take a healthier approach to teach children that nutritious food can be delicious food."

Duchesne had worked for 20 years in the business world until she realized she had accomplished all she had planned. She then decided to venture down a new career path and began working on a master's degree in elementary education so that she could work as a preschool teacher. Duchesne says she soon realized that the world of education was changing and with No Child Left Behind, schools were putting their focus on academic test scores and eliminating enrichment courses.

"I began thinking about how tragic it would be to have these kids miss out on such a great experience," she said. She then turned her attention to starting a business that would allow her to teach children how to cook. With no money to build a teaching kitchen of her own, Duchesne reached out to the Amherst Middle School and five weeks later she was teaching classes in the school's kitchen. She now runs regular after-school and vacation cooking programs as well as culinary summer camps at the facility.

"A lot of people don't know how to cook … or they are fabulously intense foodies," Duchesne said. "I want to kind of bring back the basics to make sure that kids can cook good food and know what good food is."

In her classes, Duchesne said she tries to focus on wholesome and natural foods as often as possible.

"No food is off limits unless there is a health reason," she said. "I encourage the kids to try things." Teaching children how to make healthier food choices, Duchesne added, will also address the growing issue of childhood obesity.

"I am really hopeful by getting kids in kitchen … that they can be change agents in their family," she said.

Her students were a little apprehensive about trying the sweet potato muffins baked by the class one day, but after they smelled the cinnamon and nutmeg while the muffins were still in the oven they "gobbled them up like cookies," Duchesne said.

"I did remind them that they were made with sweet potatoes that are rich in all nutrients," she said.

No healthy foods are snuck into the recipes, Duchesne said.

"I would rather have the kids know that this is good and good for them," she said. Among the culinary creations made throughout the courses are hummus and chips — "you might not think a seven-year-old would enjoy that, but they do," Duchesne said — fruit smoothies, paninis, whole-grain pasta salad with vegetables and quiche.

Not one of the 200-plus students who have gone through her programs has rejected the food cooked in the class, Duchesne said. "It might not be their favorite, but they have at least tried it," she added. "Research shows that if a child helps in the preparation of a dish, they will at least try it."

On a mission to continue to provide enrichment programs for children, Duchesne will to bring her program into Amherst classrooms next year. Through a food-based interdisciplinary curriculum, she will weave lessons about food into the traditional core classes.

"I know for some kids who are challenged with the classroom, this is a great way for them to tap into different ways of learning," Duchesne said. "Whether they are cooking or prepping, anyone can be a great level setter whether they are gifted or challenged."

Visit www.kidsculinaryarts.com.

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Weekly Dish

continued from page 38

free for those under 3). The Brookstone Grille will also serve an *a la carte* dinner from 2 to 8 p.m.

• **Mother's Day eats part three:** The Winter Café at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, will host a Mother's Day brunch, catered by Z Food & Drink in Manchester, on Sunday, May 8, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The brunch will feature an omelet station and coffee and tea selections from A&E Custom Roastery.

• **Make something from your garden:** Chef Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast will teach "Cooking & Gardening with Herbs" on Wednesday, May 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Granite State Cabinetry in Bedford. The course costs $25 and registration at www.thecreativefeast.com is required.

Know of a restaurant with Mother's Day brunch or dinner specials? Let us know at food@hippopress.com.

Meal deals

• **T-BONES & CACTUS JACK'S** Children 12 and under will eat for free with the purchase of an adult entree at all T-Bones and Cactus Jack's locations through Thurs., April 28. See www.t-bones.com.

Church/charity suppers/ bake sales

• **HAM & BEAN DINNER** at Main Street United Methodist Church, 154 Main St. in Nashua, www.mainstreet-umc.org, 882-3361, the first Saturday of each month, October through May, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Admission costs $8 for adults, $7 for seniors, $4 for children ages 6 to 12; children under 6 get in free. Dinner will include family-style servings of ham, two kinds of beans, potato salad, cole slaw, bread and pie.

Cooking classes/workshops

• **10 MINUTE MEALS** Chef Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast will teach a "Feasting on 10 Minute Summer Meals" class at Granite State Cabinetry in Bedford on Fri., June 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. The class costs $70 and includes a dinner and wine tasting. Register at www.thecreativefeast.com.

• **A MARKET** The Manchester natural foods store's education center offers classes and workshops on health and nutrition. See www.amarketnaturalfoods.com.

• **CHEZ BOUCHER COOKING SCHOOL** Chez Boucher Cooking School, 32 Depot Square in Hampton, 926-2202, www.chezboucher.com, offers one-day workshops, mini-sessions, international cooking, cooking with friends, team-building, classes for kids, international tours and more.

• **CREATIVE FEAST CLASSES** Liz Barbour's Creative Feast, www.thecreativefeast.com, has a schedule of classes for the winter and spring. On Fri., May 20, from 6 to 9 p.m., the class (also at Granite State Cabinetry) is "Feasting with Health Boosting Herbs and Spices, a Vegetarian Menu." For $70, the class includes a dinner and wine tasting and demonstrations of how to work with a variety of different herbs and spices. E-mail lizb@thecreativefeast.com or go online to register.

• **CO-OP CLASSES** The Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St. in Concord, 410-3099, www.concordfoodcoop.coop, will hold a series of wellness and green living classes over the next few months. Even free classes require registration; call 225-6840 or e-mail classes@concordfoodcoop.coop to sign up. See www.concordfoodcoop.coop or call 225-6840.

• **FARM COOKING** Tracey Miller, Holistic Health and Wellness Counselor, will present "Feeding Families from the Farmers" at Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Front Street, Exeter, on Fri., April 29, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. During the Northeast Organic Farmers Association-sponsored event, Miller will give out recipes, answer questions and present hands-on cooking demonstration for all ages. There is a suggested donation of $5.

• **FREDERICK'S PASTRIES** at 109 Route 101A in Amherst offers one-time classes for kids and adults in cake decoration and design. Check www.pastry.net or call 882-7725 for schedule.

• **GLUTEN FREE** St. Joseph Hospital, 172 Kinsley St., Nashua, 595-3076, www.stjosephhospital.com, will offer gluten-free menu options in its cafeteria — soups, sandwiches and chips — and offer a class called "Cooking with Gluten-free Grains" on Wed., May 18, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The cost for the class is $10. To register, visit the website.

• **HANNAFORD SUPERMARKETS** offer free classes on stretching your food budget, healthy cooking, time-saving meals and more. See www.hannaford.com and click on "news & events" for classes at the Hannaford near you.

• **JEWETT FARMS STUDIO** 58 Merrimac St., Newburyport, Mass., 978-961-1538, jewettfarms.com, offers cooking classes from Chef Mary Reilly (thesavorykitchen.net). Classes cost $90 per person.

• **STONEWALL KITCHEN COOKING SCHOOL** 2 Stonewall Lane, York, Maine, 877-899-8363, www.stonewallkitchen.com, offers evening cooking classes and demonstrations, "Learn at Lunch" and "Learn at Brunch" classes, classes for teens and kids and more. See the full schedule of daily classes online.

• **WINTERGREEN BOTANICALS** in Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown (268-0548, www.wintergreenbotanicals.com) offers classes in the use of herbs for better health. See schedule online.

Tastings

• **COFFEE** roasting and tasting demonstration of Kona Coffee at A&E Roastery, 131 Route 101A in Amherst. Free. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 578-3338.

• **EXOTIC MEATS** The Healthy Buffalo, Route 4 in Chichester, 369-3611, www.healthybuffalo.com, offers tastings of its exotic meats every Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Try the ostrich, alligator, elk, kangaroo and buffalo.

• **STEAK & BEER** The Drink Shoppe, 214 Central St. in Hudson, 578-1130, www.thedrinkshoppe.net, holds a free beer and steak tasting Fridays 4-6 p.m.

In the spotlight

***Markets of New England*, By Christine Chitnis (2011, The Little Bookroom, 211 pages)**

Looking to plan some New England day trips this summer? Let *Markets of New England* add some new stops along your way. The book highlights farmers markets and arts festivals and fairs all over the region. For each one, you get basic information and then a brief description.

In New Hampshire, the highlighted fairs seem to run toward the "traditional New Hampshire"-ish events. For farmers markets, the book lists Portsmouth, Newport, Peterborough and Hanover (no mention of the Concord Farmers Market, which, with the neighboring Concord Arts Market, would seem a perfect fit). For crafts markets, it lists Salmon Falls Open Studios, Squam Art Fair and the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen's Fair. Not a complete list of all that the state has to offer when it comes to summer arts and food, but the book does give you the greatest hits. Looking for similar information about our neighboring states? This book, which is small enough to slip easily into your glove compartment, will get you there. — *Amy Diaz*

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Pinot Noir

Complexity, finesse and frustration

By Paulette Eschrich
food@hippopress.com

Of all the "Big Six" grapes, with the possible exception of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir may be the most misunderstood and maligned. Dismissed by those who like their reds bold and tannic — the Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon crowd — true Pinot Noirs are lighter in color and body. Price is often a barrier; it is a real challenge to find a good Pinot Noir for less than $20, although they can be discovered. Often cited as the most versatile food wine, Pinot Noir can be less satisfying to sip by itself. And Pinot Noirs are more susceptible to vintage variation, which adds to their allure for aficionados but frustrates the casual buyer who finally found a Pinot Noir they liked at a reasonable cost.

Winemakers and viticulturalists (vineyard farmers) also have a love-hate relationship with Pinot Noir. Not only do they grapple with the effects of climate on a particular vintage, but also the soil imparts unique qualities that make vineyard selection and clone choices crucial to success. If you pay close attention, Pinot Noir communicates the magic of the place where it was grown.

Several years ago I attended a three-day trade-only event in Oregon's Willamette Valley hosted by fifty wineries that specialize in Pinot Noir. One of our workshops took place in the vineyards of two wineries with totally different soil composition. For the workshop, each winery had excavated a six-foot-deep pit so that we could see the layers of earth and the density of the soil and better understand how grapevines send their roots deep in search of nutrients and water. The volcanic (basaltic) soils tended to produce Pinots with brighter red fruit characteristics, and the marine sedimentary vineyard yielded wines with darker blue fruit flavors and aromas. With Pinot Noir, terroir, the French term that embraces climate and vineyard conditions, really matters.

A winery that accepts the challenges presented by Pinot Noir is faced with more than 50 clones or varieties of the grape to choose among. By contrast there are only 25 commonly used clones of Cabernet Sauvignon. At Alma Rosa Winery in California the clones are listed on the label. In addition, the grapes are thin-skinned and more susceptible to mildew, disease and damage from birds and insects. All of these variables can lower the yield of fruit per acre and thus increase the price a consumer has to pay for the finished wine.

At a recent blind tasting, these were some of the favorites of the evening:

2007 Baileyana Grand Firepeak Cuvee Pinot Noir, Edna Valley, California (NH Code 14051) $15.99 on sale at NHLS; regular retail up to $30. This central coast winery, developed by the Niven family, produces wines under several labels. Fruit for the Baileyana Pinot Noir is sourced from their estate vineyard at the most northern, coolest end of the Edna Valley. On a trip to California I met their French winemaker, Christian Roguenant, who has 25 vintages at this property under his belt. He thinks the 2007 is one of the best Pinots he has ever made. There's lots of red fruit — cherries and strawberries — along with an undercurrent of tobacco and spice leading to a smooth, long finish. A wine of complexity and finesse, and a fantastic bargain currently on sale at many of the New Hampshire state stores.

2009 4 Bears Winery Sean Minor Pinot Noir, Carneros, Napa Valley, California (NH Code 15007) $20.99. The owner of this winery and his winemaker were making Pinot Noir in Oregon for the highly respected King Estate before they moved to California to make their own wines. Their style resonates with our tasters: last month Sean Minor's Cabernet was a top pick in a blind tasting. Ruby tinged with garnet, this red has raspberry and cherry cola on the nose, followed by a hint of blueberry and creaminess on the palate, and the long spicy finish revealed cloves. Available at WineNot Boutique in Nashua, The Wine Steward in Hampstead, Angela's Pasta & Cheese Shop in Manchester, and on the wine menu at Saffron Bistro in Nashua and Cava in Portsmouth.

2005 Domaine Seilly Pinot Noir, Alsace, France (NH Code 29638) $29.99. Burgundy is usually synonymous with French Pinot Noir, but the grape is grown in other regions, including the Languedoc, the Loire Valley, Alsace and Champagne, where it often commands more moderate prices. This wine typifies the differences between New World and Old World styles. Initially the nose was dominated by musty, barnyard aromas; they gave way to wet tobacco, leather and cigar box with an undercurrent of sour cherry. On the palate, the earthiness was joined by more cherry and green apple. Definitely a food rather than a sipping wine, this was fantastic with a truffle cheese from Italy and would shine with any dish featuring mushrooms. Available at WineNot Boutique in Nashua.

2008 River's Edge Pinot Noir, Umpqua Valley, Oregon (NH Code 13997) $28.99. Named for the legendary fishing river that runs nearby, the Umpqua Valley sits between the Coast Range to the west and the Cascade Range to the east, with the Willamette Valley to the north and the Rogue Valley to the south. River's Edge, founded in 1998, has estate vineyards that were planted in 1972, thus explaining the depth of color and intensity of flavor evident in this Pinot Noir. Of all the wines we sampled, this red seemed to bridge the best of traditional Burgundy characteristics with the rich fruitiness associated with California. Mushroom, cigar box and a hint of pencil shavings were joined by ripe cherry and cola highlights that gave the impression of sweetness. Available at Bella Vino in Windham and WineNot Boutique in Nashua.

Paulette Eschrich works at LaBelle Winery in New Hampshire and leads a monthly wine book club at WineNot Boutique in Nashua.

Red, white and green

A lot of wine, a little cash

Chenin Blanc is the springtime of wine — it's light and floral and just a bit tart. This week, we tried two of these lovely, more difficult to find wines.

The **2007 Chateau Souchene Anjou** ($19.99 at The Wine Studio) was described on the bottle as a "dry white table wine," and, while some chenin blancs can be a bit sweet, that description was certainly accurate for this wine, which is very dry for a chenin blanc. The wine has a floral smell and taste, with a hint of green apple. Though tart and clean, the wine had a good mouthfeel with the lightest hint of nuttiness as it warmed up.

The **2009 Ken Forrester Petit Stellenbosh** ($12.99 at The Wine Studio) is from South Africa. While tart, this wine wasn't as tart and had a more fruity flavor with a light kiwi aroma. As it warmed up, the Ken Forrester even had a light finish of pastry.

We enjoyed these wines while eating a pasta dish with a spicy sausage, and though the wines were light, they stood up to the food surprisingly well.

Each week in "Red, White & Green," two wine-lovers look at red and white wines, none over $20 (and most under $15), in an attempt to find some great bottles for good prices. All prices are according to the state liquor store (nh.liquor.state.nh.us) unless otherwise stated.

Drink listings

Breweries/Distilleries/Cider

• **ANHEUSER-BUSCH** 221 DW Hwy, Merrimack. Complimentary tours include a visit to the Clydesdale Hamlet, home of the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 595-1202.

• **FARNUM HILL CIDERS** 98 Poverty Lane, Lebanon, 448-1511, www.farnumhillciders.com

• **ELM CITY BREWING COMPANY** Colony Mill Marketplace, 222 West St., Keene, 355-3335, www.elmcitybrewing.com. Restaurant, brewery and pub, open Mon.-Thurs., 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to midnight; Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

• **REDHOOK BREWERY** 35 Corporate Drive, Pease Tradeport, Portsmouth, www.redhook.com, produces Redhook ales and features the Cataqua Public House offering brews and a pub menu. Tours offered Monday and Tuesday at 2 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday at noon, 1, 3 and 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday every hour on the hour from noon to 4 p.m.; Sunday every hour on the hour from 1 to 4 p.m. For private tours, call 430-8600 ext. 327.

• **SMUTTYNOSE** 225 Heritage Ave., Portsmouth, smuttynose.com, 436-4026. Free tours to the public Friday at 3 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m.

• **TUCKERMAN BREWING COMPANY** 64 Hobbs St., Conway, 447-5400, www.tuckermanbrewing.com, offers tours every Saturday at 3 p.m.

Classes/workshops on wine/beer making

• **BARLEYWINE BREWFEST** at IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway in Nashua, 891-2477, www.incredibrew.com, on Wed., May 4, at 6 p.m. Make two cases of strong, 11 percent ABV barleywine and return in three weeks to bottle (after which the brews will require aging) for $70 (bottles not included). Call to sign up.

• **PILSNER PARTY 2011** at IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway in Nashua, 891-2477, www.incredibrew.com, on Sat., May 21, at 11:30 a.m. Make a variety case of pilsners for $35 (everything included). Call to sign up.

Classes/workshops on beer/wine tasting

• **WINENOT BOUTIQUE** 170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, www.winenotboutique.com, offers six-week course on different subjects related to wine. Sign up for all six classes or for individual sessions.

• **WINE SOCIETY** (650 Amherst St. #9 in Nashua, 883-4114; www.winesociety.us) offers classes for wine-lovers of all levels. New sessions start every few months. Call for upcoming schedule.

Special meals

• **WINE DINNER** The Annual Evening of Compassion Wine Dinner Fundraiser to benefit the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire will be held at Bedford Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 296-3913, www.bedfordvillageinn.com, on Thurs., May 12, at 5:30 p.m. The four-course dinner will also give guests an opportunity to meet some animals up for adoption at the shelter. Tickets cost $85 at 472-5714 until May 2.

Special wine tastings

• **OPEN WINE TASTING NIGHT** at IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway in Nashua, 891-2477, www.incredibrew.com, on Thurs., April 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. Six whites and six reds will be open for tasting; no reservations needed. Free.

• **MEAD & CHOCOLATE** Dancing Lion Chocolate and Moonlight Meadery will host "Chocolate meets Mead: A Romance in Five Parts" at the Meadery, 23 Londonderry Road #17, Londonderry, on Sat., April 30, from 7 to 9 p.m. Five meads will be paired with five chocolates at the event, which will be guided by local wine expert Paulette Eschrich. Guests will also received a Dancing Lion Chocolate bonbon made with blueberry mead from Moonlight Meadery. Call 216-2162 to reserve a spot. Tickets cost $25.

• **WINERY OPEN HOUSE** LaBelle Winery, 100 Chestnut Hill Road, Amherst, 828-2923, www.labellewinerynh.com, will host open houses on Sat., April 30, from noon to 2:30 p.m. and from 2:30 to 5 p.m., and on Sat., June 11, from noon to 2:30 p.m. and from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Registration is required.

• **BEER & WINE TASTING** The New Hampshire Food Bank, 70 E. Industrial Drive, Manchester, will hold a "Wine & Brew-ha" event on Friday, May 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. to benefit its Recipe for Success program. Tickets cost $60 at www.nhfoodbank.org.

Weekly/monthly tastings

• **BUTTER'S** Weekly wine-tastings at Butter's Fine Food and Wine, 70 N. Main St., Concord, 225-5995, Thursdays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Some tastings are held Fridays as well.

• **CORNUCOPIA WINE AND CHEESE MARKET** 72 Portsmouth Ave., Stratham, 772-4447, holds a tasting every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m.

• **DOVER WINE STORE** 364 Central Ave., Dover, 742-WINE (9463), www.doverwine.com, on Fridays, 4 to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.

• **THE DRINK SHOPPE** 214 Central St., Hudson, 578-1130, www.thedrinkshoppe.net, holds a free beer and steak tasting Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m.

• **FRIDAY NIGHT FLIGHTS** Enjoy weekly wine tastings — Friday Night Flights — at several area state liquor stores where Reidel stemware will be for sale for $3.99 per glass for the tasting. Tastings will run from 4 to 6 p.m. at Capitol Shopping Center, 80 Storrs St. in Concord; 417 S. Broadway in Salem; Market Basket Plaza, Route 125 in Plaistow, and Merrimack Village Center, 6 Dobson Way in Merrimack. Tastings will run from 5 to 7 p.m. at North Side Plaza, 31 Hamel Drive in Manchester; Bedford Grove Plaza, 5 Colby Court in Bedford, and 27 Coliseum Ave. in Nashua.

• **NH LIQUOR STORES** statewide host wine-tastings and promotional events. See www.nh.gov/liquor/mktevent.shtml.

• **WINE BOOK CLUB** WineNot Boutique, 170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, www.winenotboutique.com, hosts Paulette's Wine Book Club regularly.

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POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, GAMES, COMICS, MOVIES, DVDS, TV AND MORE

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Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Lisa Parsons at lparsons@hippopress.com. To get your author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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• *Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family* **C-**

POP CULTURE: CDS

Magnetic Man, *Magnetic Man*
Startime/Columbia Records, May 10

More toward any other purpose, the dubstep all-star conglomerate of Benga, Skream, and Artwork seem to be on a hunt for brownie points with this debut, floating Salem-style haunted house, drum n bass, Justice hard-glitch and euro-club orchestrations in a manner less consistent with melodic appropriateness than with decorum. That said, the record on the whole isn't completely horrible, only half so, a back-and-forth exercise of interesting vocal track to low-rent instrumental filler cut and repeat, like VNV Nation with almost no cultural longevity in mind. The club-slammer here is "I Need Air," its pitch-shift cutie-pie vocals pointing to the arrival of what could be UK garage 2.0, while in drag-things-out news, "Anthemic" uses slow-wobble gamma-ray over euro-house synth-symphonics to make its tenuous point. Gahh, don't mind me — I don't hate this LP and was excited to receive it; there are viable remix takeaways for sure. But jeez, it often comes across as a term paper for Ableton Hipness 101. **C+** *—Eric W. Saeger*

Ohgr, *Undeveloped*
Metropolis Records, May 10

Being a fan of Skinny Puppy from their beginning, I'm often amazed at the lack of je ne sais whatever missing from their goth descendants. It's a handicap, man, trying to fit in at the area goth clubs that have tried to get past the gestation stage, trying to keep a straight face when the human pincushion crowd starts getting all frisky at the sound of the latest Hanzel Und Gretyl tune and I'm thinking, ack, you poor fricking sods. And so my existence has been — having (probably unfairly) taken up the habit of tossing Dancing Ferret/Metropolis/WTII/etc. releases in the "Surely I'll Get Around To This At Some Point" pile, my hopes for a devastatingly kickass darkwave album have been pinned to the next SP record, and I've been watching its news like a hawk. In the meantime, obviously not content to sit around waiting for SP's legal or whatnot clouds to part, Puppy singer Nivek Ogre has again teamed up with longtime soundboard fixture Mark Walk to put out what amounts to almost an SP album, *Undeveloped*. As is tradition, this solo stuff is more dummy-ready, often catering to fans of Nine Inch Nails and even Marilyn Manson (SP diehards cannot express the depth of their snobbish disdain for that guy), but, equally expectedly, Ogre's simply at a level his wannabes can never touch, drowning the listener in a unique horror-rock experience. And of course there's the odd WTF floating in the winding-down samples and psycho-with-a-shotgun rants, like the playback of the actual 911 call when Jacko was dying ("Crash," a denouncement of U.S. health care). Anyhow, before I turn this into my next attempt at a novel, I'll close by saying that "Nitwitz" is my favoritest song ever, for today. **A** *—Eric W. Saeger*

Playlist

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Quick update regarding the new **Gorillaz** album. I know I sort of promised to review it, but I've decided there's really nothing to say about art that pretends to hate itself. Look, I know the trendy posture of rock-stardom is bending over backward not to appear to be interested in being a rock star (even in this case, a "cartoon" ambient not-really-hiphop band comprised of actual rock stars). I get it. It's very… you know, double-deconstructionist or whatever. My blown-awayness runneth over. But really, I've heard the samples, and my instincts tell me that downloading the other 45 minutes of it "to get the full effect" will yield disappointment. Like other Gorillaz records, the rest of the new LP is probably cavitating, quasi-trip-hop-chill in search of meaning (but not really, nudge), in one sense a shallow nose-thumbing at Massive Attack and people like that. What am I supposed to say? "Cool?" Fine. It's cool, buy the stupid thing. But I feel obligated to inform you that the money you spend on albums is actual legal tender that you could use for real fulfillment of some sort. When I'm at an expensive restaurant I'd be horrified if I saw a Big Mac on the menu, savvy? But sure, if half-assedly contrived mixed-media projects created by rock stars — the proceeds from which aren't donated in full to charity, as would happen in a better world — are chicken soup for the ADD soul, by all means, dig in.

• In other mixed-media news, tweed-jacketed Ivy League sophisticate and former Motley Crue "bassist" Nikki Sixx, who used to sleep with Darth Vader-voiced lit professor Kat Von D out of sheer boredom, releases his **Sixx: AM** thingamajig, *This Is Gonna Hurt*, on Tuesday! A collection of bad heavy metal and bad photography, it can be found in some section of your Walmart next week, perhaps near the kitty litter, who knows. It is an upscale gift for third-shift aluminum-can-factory workers who know there is art somewhere on this strange planet but why bother if it doesn't get you stoned.

• Also next week, AARP-subscribing white-hiphop act **Beastie Boys** release *Hot Sauce Committee Part Two*, an album that already had its Nas-guested single "Too Many Rappers" released two years ago. Now, I know the entire country is wondering "Meh? But what about blah-de-blah Part One?" Well, that's where it gets hilarious: "Hot Sauce Committee, Pt. 1" is to be released under the title "Hot Sauce Committee, Pt. 2" with a slightly altered track listing, which will include "Too Many Rappers," while the material intended for *Hot Sauce Committee, Pt. 2* may now be released as *Hot Sauce Committee, Pt. 1* at some point in the future." See? Even rock stars don't care about people not caring about rock stars anymore. The Ramones won! *—Eric W. Saeger*

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Hooray for Bollywood

Film fest brings Indian cinema to NH

The New England Classic Bollywood Film Festival will be held Saturday, April 30. Courtesy photo.

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

It is the world's largest film industry — in terms of films produced and money grossed — and revered for its catchy songs and elaborate dances. No, not Hollywood. Bollywood. And as the population of southern New Hampshire continues to diversify, a new film festival will introduce Bollywood's golden age.

The New England Classic Bollywood Film Festival will be held Saturday, April 30, at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre in Wilton and will show two films that represent the cinematic bookends of Bollywood's classic years between 1955 and 1975.

These films include *Mother India* (1957), which festival founder Dan Szczesny (associate publisher of the Hippo) described as India's *Gone with the Wind*. Szczesny said the film is epic and that it was the template all of Bollywood, even to this day, would follow.

The other full length feature on the schedule is *Caravan* (1971), which Szczesny noted was an obscure film in India but whose soundtrack is still one of the most beloved of all time. He said five of the movie's eight songs were huge hits.

"In India the film and music industries are so tied together," Szczesny said. "In those days the soundtrack would be released months before the movie so that when the movie came to town, everyone knew the songs."

This pairing of film and music isn't the only difference between Bollywood and its western counterpart. In these classic years of 1955 to 1975, according to Szczesny, Bollywood films weren't just diversions from everyday life but events that shut down entire villages. Movie caravans would come into a village and perhaps project movies out of the back of a truck onto a barn. It wasn't just a moment at the movieplex but a festival or carnival that was relished and enjoyed.

This is perhaps one reason classic Bollywood films were so long. Szczesny said he struggled to find a movie that was only 2½ hours long. Whereas the American attention span can be short, Indians wanted their movies to be as long as possible because it was so much fun to watch them. Plus, time is a creature of a different color in India, where the most popular sport, cricket, can go on for days and weddings for weeks.

But time isn't so much a factor because India's movie experience is so different. Americans quietly eat their popcorn in their seat and watch the action unfold on screen. In India, however, movie-watching is a two-way relationship. Szczesny said every film is like a midnight showing of *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Viewers sing along with the songs, dance in the aisles, talk on their cell phones. It is, for all intents and purposes, a party.

It is an inclusive party as well. Whereas Hollywood loves to classify films as romantic comedies or action thrillers, in Bollywood each film has a little bit of everything. As these films were originally shown to entire villages, they had to have something in them that appealed to kids, parents, the elderly, men and women. So a film like *Mother India* spans the genre gamut, which can be a difficult concept for Western audiences to grasp.

Audiences in larger cities, like New York and Chicago, have grasped the Bollywood concept and fallen in love with it, hosting huge Bollywood film festivals. But it is a fever that has yet to reach New Hampshire. This is why Szczesny felt it was the right time for the film festival. He said the Wilton Town Hall Theatre was an obvious choice, as it has always been a patron of new ideas.

Szczesny hoped any lover of world cinema would attend to enjoy the classics of a bygone era. Szczesny said today's Bollywood, which is perhaps more popular than ever, has a healthy influence of the West and has lost a bit of its earlier innocence. But while the West has certainly influenced Bollywood (which is only Mumbai's film industry — there are other very successful film industries in other parts of India), so too has Bollywood influenced the West. Szczesny said the show *Glee* with all its remarkable songs and choreography is straight out of Bollywood, and he said the films of Australian Baz Luhrmann, like *Moulin Rouge*, also lean heavily on Bollywood style.

"A portion of the proceeds from the festival will go toward the Holy Cross Family Learning Center, a Manchester-based volunteer organization that offers English classes to recent refugees from such countries as Nepal, Bhutan, Haiti and Rwanda," according to information provided by the organizers.

Tickets, which cover all movies and a buffet of Indian food, cost $9 ($5 for kids under 12). The screening of *Caravan* will start at 10:15 a.m., a lunch buffet from India Palace will be open from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., videos will screen from 1:30 to about 2:45 p.m., and the screening of *Mother India*, which is nearly three hours long and includes a 10 minute intermission, starts at 3 p.m.

The New England Classic Bollywood Film Festival
When: Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Where: Wilton Town Hall Theatre, 40 Main St., Wilton, www.wiltontownhalltheatre.com, 654-3456 or 236-9236
Tickets: Cost $9 for all-day pass and includes lunch buffet from India Palace Restaurant

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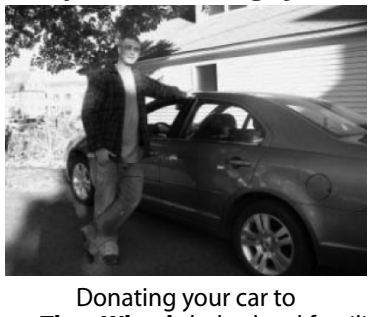

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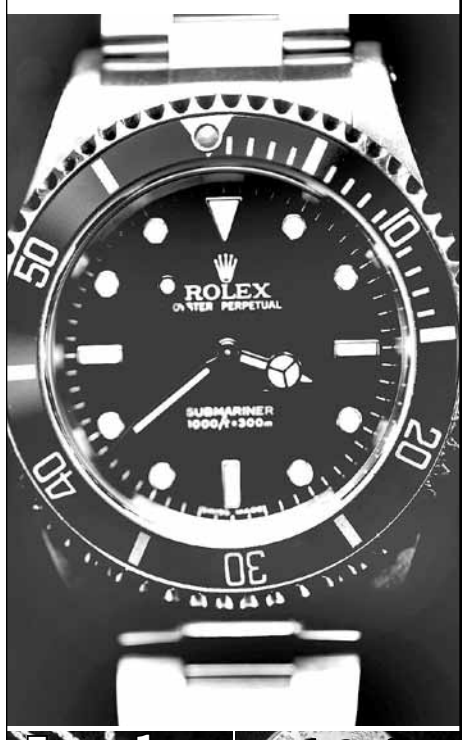

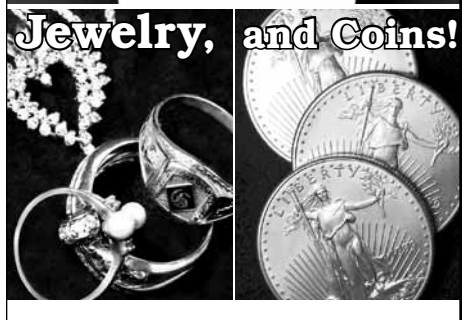

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BOOK & LECTURE LISTINGS

Libraries

- **Amherst Town Library**
14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us
- **Bedford Public Library**
3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford 472-3023, bedford.lib.nh.us
- **Concord Public Library**
45 Green St., 225-8670, www.concordpubliclibrary.net
- **Derry Public Library**
64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derry.lib.nh.us
- **Goffstown Public Library**
2 High St., Goffstown, 497-2102, goffstown.lib.nh.us
- **Hollis Social Library**
2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721,hollis.nh.us
- **Hooksett Public Library**
1701B Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org
- **Manchester City Library**
405 Pine St. (main branch) and 76 N. Main St. (West branch), 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
- **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**
18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, indianmuseum.org
- **Nashua Public Library**
2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org
- **Rodgers Memorial Library**
194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org
- **Tucker Free Library**
31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471, tuckerfreelibrary.org
- **Wadleigh Memorial Library**
49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, wadleigh.lib.nh.us
- **Wilton Public Library**
7 Forest Road, Wilton, 654-2581, wiltonlibrarynh.org

Bookstores

- **Barnes & Noble**
1741 South Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557; 235 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-5961; bn.com
- **Borders**
76 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 224-1255;
- **Double Midnight Comics & Collectibles**
245 Maple St., Manchester, 669-9636, dmcomics.com
- **Gibson's Bookstore**
27 South Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com
- **MainStreet Bookends**
16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com
- **River Run Books**
20 Congress St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.com
- **Toadstool Bookshop**
586 Nashua St., Milford, 673-1734, toadbooks.com.

Other

- **Manchester Historic Association**
200 Bedford St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org
- **New Hampshire Humanities Council**
19 Pillsbury St., Concord, 224-4071, www.nhhc.org
- **New Hampshire State Library**
20 Park St., Concord, www.nh.gov/nhsl
- **New Hampshire Writers' Project**
SNHU, 2521 N. River Road, Manchester, 314-7980, nhwritersproject.org
- **Rivier College**
420 Main St., Nashua, 888-1311, rivier.edu.
- **UNH Manchester**
400 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-4101, unhm.unh.edu

In the spotlight

After Iraq

The World Affairs Council of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Humanities Council conclude their "After Iraq" lecture series, held at UNH Manchester, on Tuesday, May 3, with a discussion of "Counterterrorism and American Foreign Policy Today" presented by retired CIA Station Chief Haviland Smith. Smith served in Eastern and Western Europe and the Middle East and as Chief of the Counterterrorism Staff. (Look for him on www.c-spanvideo.org.) The lecture will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the third-floor auditorium at 400 Commercial St. in Manchester and is free and open to the public, but registration is appreciated — visit wacnh.org or call 314-7970.

Author events

- **JIM ARNOSKY** will talk about *Thunder Birds: Nature's Flying Predators* on Thurs., April 28, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore. This is an April Vacation Week family night partnered with NH Audubon, who will bring a bird from the McLane Center in Concord to the event for kids to meet. Sales at the event will benefit NH Audubon. Aronsky will also give an art demonstration and bring his guitar for a sing-along.
- **DALE PETERSON** will talk about his book *The Moral Lives of Animals* (Bloomsbury Press) on Sat., April 30, at 2 p.m. at Toadstool Bookshop in Peterborough.
- **HENRY HOMEYER** will talk about his gardening books on Tues., May 3, at 5:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore.
- **BRUCE LEVINE** will talk about *Get Up, Stand Up: Uniting Populists, Energizing the Defeated, and Battling the Corporate Elite* on Tues., May 3, at 7p.m. at Water Street Bookstore in Exeter.
- **GARRISON KEILLOR** will be at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, on Wed., May 4, at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are $40, $65 and $100. Call 668-5588 or go to palacetheatre.org.
- **SHONNA MILLIKEN HUMPHREY** will talk about her novel *Show Me Good Land* on Thurs., May 5, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore.
- **HOWARD MANSFIELD** will talk about his most recent book, *Turn and Jump: How Time and Place Fell Apart*, on Thurs., May 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bedford Public Library. This event is free, sponsored by the Bedford Library Foundation. Books will be available for purchase and signing after the presentation.
- **MELISSA COLEMAN** will talk about *This Life is in Your Hands: One Dream, Sixty Acres, and a Life Undone* on Tues., May 10, at 5:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore.
- **WILLIAM LYCHACK** will talk about his short story collection *The Architect of Flowers* on Thurs., May 12, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore.
- **JAMES KLOPPENBERG** author of *Reading Obama: Dreams, Hope, and the American Political Tradition*, will talk about his book on Thurs., May 12, at 7 p.m. in the theater of Nashua Public Library. Kloppenberg is the Charles Warren Professor of American History at Harvard University. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at the lecture, which is free and open to the public.
- **JENNIFER EGAN** will be at The Music Hall Loft at 131 Congress St. in Portsmouth on Mon., May 16, at 7 p.m. Ages 18+. $29 includes a reserved seat, a copy of *A Visit from the Goon Squad* trade paperback, bar beverage, author presentation, Q&A and book-signing meet-and-greet. Tickets on sale to public April 15 via www.themusichall.org or 436-2400.
- **KATHERINE PATERSON** will be in NH on Tues., May 17, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, as part of the NH Humanities Council's "Connections" literary program. The event is free and open to the public but advance registration is suggested (nhhc.org). Paterson is a two-time winner of the Newbery Medal, for *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob Have I Loved*, and the National Book Award, for *The Master Puppeteer* and *The Great Gilly Hopkins*. She is one of only four Americans to with the Hans Christian Andersen Medal, an international honor that recognizes an author's lifetime achievements. Her most recent novel, *The Day of the Pelican*, tells the story of a refugee family from Kosovo.
- **ANDREW KRIVAK** will talk about his debut novel, *The Sojourn*, on Tues., May 17, at 7 p.m. at RiverRun Bookstore in Portsmouth, and on Thurs., May 19, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord.
- **NATHANIEL PHILBRICK** will talk about his book *The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of Little Big Horn*, newly out in paperback, on Friday, May 20, at 6 p.m. at Red River Theatres in Concord, hosted by Gibson's Bookstore. If you purchase a copy of *The Last Stand* from Gibson's, you will receive one free ticket. Tickets otherwise cost $6. Call the bookstore to arrange tickets. Philbrick was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for *Mayflower*.

Lectures and discussions

- **DAVID BROOKS** will be the keynote speaker at the NH Humanities Council's 2011 Annual Dinner on Tues., Oct. 25, at the Radisson Center of NH in Manchester. Brooks has been a columnist for the NY Times since Sept. 2003 and has

been a senior editor at The Weekly Standard and a contributing editor at Newsweek and Atlantic Monthly. He is the author of *Bobos in Paradise* and *The Social Animal*. Tickets for the annual dinner cost $100 and support the hundreds of free events the NHHC makes possible each year. Buy tickets at www.nhhc.org.

• **NAVAL AVIATION** ex-Petty Officer Jack Barry, U.S. Navy, will be the featured speaker on April 30 at 11 a.m. at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire at 13 E. Perimeter Drive in Londonderry, www.nhahs.org, 669-4820, free admission. Barry enlisted in the Navy in 1967 and flew with an all-volunteer unit supporting forces in southeast Asia.

• **HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY** interfaith observance on Sun., May 1, at 7 p.m. at Rivier College in the Education Center's Demoulas Room on Clement Street in Nashua. Free and open to the public. Thomas Weisshaus, author of *Not a Victim: Tales of Survival in Nazi Budapest*, will discuss his childhood experiences with Holocaust perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers and victims. A q&a session and a candle-lighting ceremony will follow his presentation. For more info, call Sheryl Rich-Kern at 881-7264 or e-mail sherylrichkern@myfairpoint.net.

• **MORE THAN BEADS & BASKETS: THE LIVES AND WORKS OF NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN** Sunday speaker series at Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner at 1 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month through April, and the first Sunday in May and June. May 1: "Abenaki Women, Basket Making and Cultural Survival," with master basket-maker and genealogist Sherry Gould.

• **WILD URBAN PLANTS** with Dr. Peter Del Tredici on May 3 in the NHTI Library Living Room in Concord, free and open to the public, part of NHTI's Wings of Knowledge lecture series. See nhti.edu.

• **IT'S NOT ABOUT THE HIKE** presented by Nancy Sporborg and Pat Piper, at the Harris Center in Hancock on May 5 at 7 p.m. See www.its-not-about-the-hike.com.

• **NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY OF NH** presented by NH Humanities Council scholar David Stewart-Smith on May 6 at 7 p.m. in Weare Town Hall, free and open to the public. Call Weare Public Library at 529-2044 for details.

In the spotlight

Birds on roofs

Becky Soumala of the New Hampshire Audubon Society (www.nhaudubon.org) will talk about "Project Nighthawk," an effort to help the state-endangered Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) by installing gravel nest patches on rooftops in Concord, on Tuesday, May 3, at 7 p.m. in the Concord Public Library auditorium, free and open to the public. Learn about the bird and how to install a gravel nest patch, or how to volunteer to help the effort. Common Nighthawks, which are about the size of a dove and are brown, black and gray, eat insects (including mosquitoes). They arrive from their South American wintering areas in mid to late May. See http://nhbirdrecords.org/bird-conservation/Nighthawk-main.htm. Call 224-9909 x309 or e-mail bsuomala@nhaudubon.org. Photo by Lillian Stokes, http://stokesbirdingblog.blogspot.com.

Book discussions

• **UNHM LIBRARY COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP** invites the public to join discussions this spring of books by author Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), English novelist and poet. For info, call the library at 641-4173. Discussions are held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the UNHM library. April 28: *Jude the Obscure*.

Poetry

• **BRANDI MACDONALD** performs her poetry on Sat., April 30, at 1 p.m. at Borders Books in Concord, free and open to the public, hosted by the Poetry Society of NH, poetrysocietyofnewhampshire.org.

Writers' groups

• **SWA SPRING WRITERS CONFERENCE** The Seacoast Writers Association will host its annual spring conference on Sat., May 14, at the McConnell Center, 63 Locust St., Dover. Keynote speaker is humorist Rebecca Rule. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Winners of the 2011 SWA writing contest will be announced. After lunch, participants choose one of four two-hour workshops. Register at seacoastwritersassociation.org.

The Book Report

• **Book swap:** Be The Shift New England and Just Be are teaming up to host a community book swap on Saturday, April 30. Bring your gently used books to swap with others and find out more about the Be The Shift initiative from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Just Be Boutique at 62 N. Main St. in Concord. Children's books, paperbacks, cookbooks and magazines are all welcome, but no textbooks. See www.justbe.net. For more information about the Be The Shift Book Swap, visit their Facebook page.

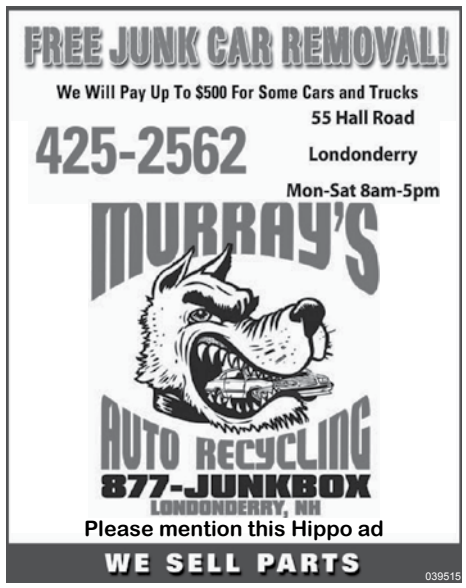
• **Poetry slam finals:** Nine poets will compete in the 2011 New Hampshire Slam Poetry Finals on Friday, May 6, at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester. Hosted by Slam Free or Die, this event will help select the team that will compete at the National Poetry Slam, which is being held in Boston this year. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the slam begins at 8 p.m. There's a $3 cover charge. Call 858-3286.

• **Poetry prize:** The Donald Hall-Jane Kenyon Prize in American Poetry, established last year to be given annually by the New Hampshire Writers' Project and the Concord Monitor, will go this year to former U.S. poet laureate Kay Ryan, the Monitor reported. Last year the prize went to Ted Kooser. Ryan will formally accept the award in October.

• **2011 Letters About Literature winners:** The Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library has announced New Hampshire's winners in the 2011 Letters About Literature competition. Fifth-grader Drew Stetson of Stratham, seventh-grader Erin Choate of Lisbon and 12th-grader Jake Tinkham of Gilford will each receive a cash prize and a Target store gift card. Their letters will be entered in the national Letters About Literature competition, which is a program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. To enter, young readers wrote personal letters to authors explaining how the authors' work changed their view of the world or themselves. This year, there were 69,200 Letters entries nationwide, 624 from New Hampshire students.

Stetson wrote a letter to Robert Frost about his nature poems. Choate wrote to David Pelzer about *A Child Called It*. Tinkham wrote his letter to Brian Jacques about the Redwall series. For the full text of the winning entries, visit http://lal.nhbookcenter.org.

—Lisa Parsons



FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ

Water for Elephants

Water for Elephants (PG-13)

An orphaned college student runs away and joins the circus in Depression Era America in *Water for Elephants*, a movie that has nothing to do with vampires or the town of Bedford but I'll probably make snide references herein about both.

Coincidentally-named Jacob (Robert Pattinson) is a veterinary student at Cornell University, just a few tests away from getting his degree and graduating to a nice career, even in these hard times, when his parents are killed in a car accident. Distraught, he leaves school and decides to ride the rails looking for work. But the train he jumps on turns out to be a circus train and instead of being arrested for vagrancy, he's given work shoveling poo and becomes enchanted with the magic of the circus, particularly the magic of the cute and sparkly Marlena (Reese Witherspoon), the horse trainer whose act is the star attraction. When Jacob is able to identify what is wrong with one of her horses, circus owner and Marlena's husband August (Christoph Waltz) decides to keep Jacob on as the vet. Even after he angers August by shooting the sick horse rather than working it to death, Jacob still finds himself a favorite of Mr. and Mrs. Circus Owner, which starts to get awkward as Jacob's attraction to Marlena grows.

The circus may be all exotic delights to the rubes who turn out to see acrobats and ferocious lions, but it has a dark side. For one, August doesn't treat anyone or anything connected to the circus particularly well. He might have a good sense of showmanship, but he's also a jerk — to Marlena, the other circus employees and the animals. Examples: he feeds the animal rancid meat and will toss employees off a speeding train if they displease him or if he finds himself short at payroll time. And his jerkiness is enhanced by the general tightness of his finances. He fears the circus will go under and tries to generate interest and ticket sales by buying an elephant for Marlena to build an act around. Though really only trained to deal with farm animals and the like, Jacob is tasked with keeping middle-aged Rosie the elephant alive and getting her to perform. While August attempts to accomplish this task by jabbing her with a sharp prod, Jacob eventually discovers that she can perform on command when spoken to in Polish, which, luckily, was his parents' native language. Jacob and Marlena bond over the charm of the pachyderm, but August can only see dollars when he looks at Rosie and is impatient for his investment in her to pay off.

Because This Is the Great Depression, as we are told over and over again in the most flatly overt manner. Everything about *Water for Elephants* feels like a thinly disguised vehicle for teaching a lesson — about the value of hard work, or the evils of beating animals and/or your wife, or how tough things are During This Great Depression We Are Currently Experiencing. I hope the book (which I haven't read) *does* contain some good sex scenes because otherwise it might be hard for students assigned to read it to stay awake long enough to learn its valuable lessons. I suspect in cramming the story into two hours, the movie had to shave off a lot of texture and atmospherics about the times, reducing it to the kind of exposition that *Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story* made such excellent fun of. ("It's the sixties," characters said there. "It's the Depression," characters say here. "It's only 40 minutes into the movie, two minutes later than the last time you looked," my cell phone informs me.) For those who are inclined to read the book of a movie they enjoy, *Water For Elephants* the movie doesn't make a great ad for the book. The movie suggests a book that feels like something you'd have to read rather than something you'd enjoy reading.

Not helping the half-baked feel of the movie are the central three performances. Christoph Waltz is all kinds of excellent, particularly when it comes to exuding menace. But his performance here is bigger than the character. There seem to be

Reviewlets: Snack-sized movie reviews

*** Indicates a movie worth seeking out. Previously reviewed movies have grades. For full reviews of most movies here or movies previously released, go to www.hippopress.com.**

***The Adjustment Bureau* (PG-13)**
Matt Damon, Emily Blunt.
A man running for Senate gets an accidental peek behind the scenes of the everyday life of the fedora-wearing men who control all of human fate, which apparently does not want him to date Emily Blunt. **B-**

***Arthur* (PG-13)**
Russell Brand, Helen Mirren.
The 1981 Dudley Moore movie is remade with wackiness-factory Russell Brand playing an ultra-rich man-boy who is facing an arranged marriage to another heir of vast means but limited life experience. **D**

***Atlas Shrugged: Part 1* (PG-13)**
Taylor Shilling, Matthew Marsden.
Wooden and clunkily written, this adaptation of the first third of Ayn Rand's book seems to answer the question of "who is John Galt" with the answer "a tiresome MacGuffin." **D**

***Born to Be Wild* (NR)**
This documentary is a 3-D extravaganza about orphaned orangutans and elephants. **B**

***The Conspirator* (PG-13)**
Robin Wright, James McAvoy.
Robert Redford directs this solid courtroom drama about Mary Surratt, a woman charged as a member of the conspiracy behind the Lincoln assassination. **B**

***Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (PG)**
Zachary Gordon, Steve Zahn.
The further adventures of Greg Heffley, this time with emphasis on his older brother Rodrick. **C+**

***Fast Five* (PG-13)**
Vin Diesel, Paul Walker.
Fasterest and Furiouserest — in Rio! Opens Friday, April 29.

***Hanna* (PG-13)**
Saoirse Ronan, Eric Bana.
Ronan is a kid, sure, but also a girl home-schooled to be a steely assassin. **B-**

***Hoodwinked Too! Hood vs. Evil* (PG)**
Voices of Bill Hader, Hayden Panettiere.
Red Riding Hood helps to investigate the disappearance of Hansel and Gretel. Opens Friday, April 29.

***Hop* (PG)**
Russell Brand, James Marsden.
Not wanting to be the next Easter Bunny, a teenaged E.B. heads to L.A. to become a drummer in this movie that mixes live action and animation. **D+**

***I Am Number Four* (PG-13)**
Timothy Olyphant, Alex Pettyfer.
Seeking *Twilight*-like status, this teen sci-fi features a boy with powers who is being hunted. **D**

***Insidious* (PG-13)**
Rose Byrne, Patrick Wilson.
A family is haunted by all manner of spirit and demon in this strange but kind of awesome horror movie. **B+**

***Jane Eyre* (PG-13)**
Mia Wasikowska, Michael Fassbender.
The Rochester is appropriately dreamy and the Jane is appropriately eerie in this fun retelling of the Bronte classic. **A-**

***Just Go With It* (PG-13)**
Adam Sandler, Jennifer Aniston.
A man who uses a wedding ring and a story about an unhappy marriage to pick up chicks has to invent a flesh-and-blood ex when he meets a girl he wants to spend more than just a night with. Opened on Friday, Feb. 10.

***The King's Speech* (R)**
Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush.
Excellent performances — Firth, Rush and Helena Bonham Carter as the Queen Mum — make for great fun in this historical biopic. **A**

***Limitless* (PG-13)**
Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro.
A superdrug allows a struggling writer to become a brilliant successful investor, as long as he keeps taking the potentially dangerous drug. **C**

***The Lincoln Lawyer* (R)**
Matthew McConaughey, Ryan Phillippe.
McConaughey takes advantage of his natural reptilianness and plays a defense attorney who runs his business out of the back of a Lincoln. **B**

***Prom* (PG)**
Aimee Teargarden, Thomas McDonell.
High school senior prom drama — proma? Opens wide on Friday, April 29.

***Rango* (PG)**
Voices of Johnny Depp and Abigail Breslin.
Remember those commercials for the animated movie with the lizard during the Super Bowl? This is that movie — a Western featuring the voice of Johnny Depp as Rango, a pet chameleon who suddenly finds himself in the wild. **C**

***Red Riding Hood* (PG-13)**
Amanda Seyfried, Lukas Haas.
Catherine Hardwicke — director of a little movie called *Twilight* — revamps (sorry) this tale of wolves and outerwear. **B-**

***Rio* (G)**
Voices of Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway.
A cage-raised bird takes a trip to the wilds of Brazil. **B-**

***Scream 4* (R)**
Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox.
Sydney returns to Woodsboro and a whole new generation of teenagers (including Emma Roberts and Hayden Panettiere) meet deaths, complete with pop culture references. **C+**

***Soul Surfer* (PG)**
AnnaSophia Robb, Dennis Quaid.
Based on a true story: a surfer girl must relearn her sport after losing an arm in a shark attack. No, really. **C**

***Source Code* (PG-13)**
Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Monaghan.
A man is sent back to the scene of a disaster minutes before it happens, over and over, until he can stop it. **C**

***Win Win* (R)**
Paul Giamatti, Amy Ryan.
A lawyer/wrestling coach finds himself caring for an old man and the man's 16-year-old grandson in this smart, funny and wee-bit dark character study. **B+**

***Your Highness* (R)**
Danny McBride, James Franco.
Talking about the other kind of "highness" in this tale of knights, quests, maidens in distress and slackers in armor, co-written by Danny McBride. **D-**

nuances to August's character that are harder to catch under the big villainy that Waltz brings to the role. Or maybe there aren't, and August is a just one-note thug and that's just as uninteresting.

On the other hand, at least he brings something — Witherspoon looks nice in her costumes and seems to have left it at that. And then there's Pattinson, who is going to have a devil of a time breaking free from his glittery vampire cage. I suggest he veer wildly off course and do broad comedy or something because this lovesick-puppy shtick is even less convincing when it doesn't come with white pancake makeup and glowy eyes.

For a movie about the huckster magic and raw showmanship of the early 20th-century circus, *Water for Elephants* is surprising only for its lack of spark and excitement. **C**

Rated PG-13 for moments of intense violence and sexual content. Directed by Francis Lawrence and written by Richard LaGravenese (from the novel by Sara Gruen), Water for Elephants *is two hours and two minutes long and is distributed by Fox 2000.*

Super (NR)

A sad sack decides he has been chosen by God to be a superhero in *Super*, a darker, lower-rent version of *Kick-Ass*.

Frank (Rainn Wilson) is devastated when his wife, Sarah (Liv Tyler), a former addict, returns her to drinking and drugging ways and leaves him for Jacques (Kevin Bacon), a drug dealer and all-around sleaze. While wallowing in despair, so broken he doesn't even have the heart to adopt a pet rabbit for fear it will die, Frank sees the religious superhero show featuring the Holy Avenger (Nathan Fillion). The Holy Avenger and his own borderline mania lead to an epiphany: Frank has been chosen, perhaps by God, to right the world's wrongs. He designs himself a suit, comes up with a name (the Crimson Bolt) and hits the streets. When the streets hit back, he does a little research into superheroes without powers and comes up with a weapon — a wrench — that can help him thwart crooks, drug dealers and perverts in their dastardly plans. Along the way, he gains an admirer, Libby (Ellen Page), the comic book store clerk whose enthusiasm for superhero vigilantism borders on the thuggish.

When I say "darker, lower-rent version of *Kick-Ass*" I don't mean it as a criticism. Both movies generally cover the same territory, but *Kick-Ass* is flasher and more comic-book-y about its "what if a regular person became a superhero" tale. In *Super*, we get a bit more of an examination of the morality of being a superhero — it's one thing to hit an obvious evil-doer with a wrench while he's attacking a woman in a wheelchair or picking up a child prostitute, but what about cracking the head of somebody who cuts in line or keys a car? Libby eventually decides to become the Crimson Bolt's sidekick and her enthusiasm is more about the awesomeness of superheroing than the morality behind it. Frank wants to save his wife and eventually everybody who is being preyed on by evil; Libby wants to, well, kick ass. The movie shows us the difference between these two approaches: as Frank explains, how can he say "shut up, evil" (his catchphrase) if he's doing evil as well?

Super is uneven but not unsuccessful. Like seemingly everybody from *The Office*, Wilson is able to mix extreme weirdness and believable sweetness in a character and make it feel natural. The movie tempers its superhero absurdity (and some title credits of animated doodles that are truly geek-fabulous) by not shying away from the horror of actual violence. And while Page doesn't always manage to shake off her more irritating affectations, Bacon and Fillion provide nice comic moments to the minor-key story of main character Frank.

Super is currently available through OnDemand in the IFC Films section and that seems a perfect forum for this quirky violent not-for-everybody comedy. **B-**

Not rated. Written and directed by James Gunn, Super *is an hour and 36 minutes long and distributed by IFC Films.*

African Cats (G)

Lions and cheetahs raise their young in the beautiful but harsh wilds of an African savanna in *African Cats*, a documentary from Disneynature narrated by Samuel L. Jackson.

Jackson tells the story of two cats — lions and cheetahs. The lions live in two prides on either side of a river, with our focus being on lioness Layla, the oldest female of the pride headed by male lion Fang, and her daughter Mara. In addition to keeping Mara fed and alive, Layla has to worry about the reign of Fang, which is threatened by Kali, a strong lion from the other side of the river who has three strong lion sons and is looking to invade Fang's territory.

Cheetahs, we're told, are more solitary, so Sita, mother of five, has to hunt for and protect her young on her own. Not as big as the lions, she has some speed on her side.

In both cases, the males of the species are nearly as much of a threat as the other animals looking to eat Sita's and Layla's young. If Kali defeats Fang, he and his sons will kill or chase off the current crop of cubs so as to make room for their own children by the lionesses. And even if Kali doesn't move in, Fang, as current leader of the pack, gets the "lion's share" of any kills the lionesses make. To feed their cubs and themselves, the females have to grab what they can before Fang arrives. Meanwhile, Sita has to face down three cheetah males who seem to be threatening her cubs. Males really come off as the villains of this movie, the "guys suck" message being the flip side of the "moms are awesome" message that, along with the "gazelles, zebras and wildebeests are delicious" message, is the main takeaway from this movie.

There must be some kind of happy medium between clinical Latin-species-name-using science-class-film-style nature documentaries and this Disneyfied version that gives the animals cutesy names and all but turns them into supporting characters from *The Lion King*. Some of the wild of this wildlife film is lost when we're made to see the cheetah not just as a fascinating and beautiful animal but as a super mom who is worried about getting her cubs a good education. I suppose it makes them just like us — but I don't need the cheetahs to be like me. Lions and cheetahs are pretty cool by themselves — just watching a cheetah run is captivat-

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Bollywood Now: A Tribute to Soon-To-Be Classics is a selection of some Bollywood numbers from the past decade. **Bollywood Now will be screened at 2:15 p.m.**
Mother India (1957) is one of the great Hindi epics, in the tradition of Hollywood's Gone With the Wind. The film ranks among the all-time Indian box office hits and has been described as India's most revered film. **Mother India will be screened at 3 p.m.**
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Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family

ing — mostly for the ways they are not like us. And peoplefying the animals makes some of the realities of the circle of life (i.e. cute baby animals getting eaten and sometimes moms die) even more jarring. The whole male-vs.-female approach to cubs is made all the more unsettling because of the way the movie turns them into "moms" and "dads."

I felt worn down with cuteness by *African Cats*, which is too bad because it really does feature some amazing animal footage. Crocodiles, zebras, elephants and hippos make cameo appearances here and along with the lions and cheetahs really do remind you of how exciting and diverse the animal kingdom can be. The visible animal universe of urban Manchester, where I spend a lot of my time, is largely squirrels, house cats and dogs on leashes. It is fun being reminded of the more exotic animal life out there. It would be even more fun if its wildness, its dramatic uncommonness to suburban America, could be allowed to shine through. **B-**

Rated G. Directed by Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey, African Cats *is an hour and 29 minutes long and distributed by Disneynature.*

Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family (PG-13)

A woman dying of cancer wants her feuding children to come together and turns to Madea for help in *Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family*, the, I think, sixth or seventh Perry movie featuring his Madea character.

The movie works more or less the way I remember the last few of these Madea movies working — the Madea (Tyler Perry) sections of the movie are mostly for comic relief while the central plot is mostly drama. Here, Aunt Bam (Cassi Davis) and Shirley (Loretta Devine) are friends/relatives of Madea (the movie's official info identifies Shirley as Madea's neice) who pull Madea into Shirley's story. Shirley has just been informed that her cancer has returned and she wants to tell her three children at the same time: daughters Tammy (Natalie Dessuelle) and Kimberly (Shannon Kane) and son Byron (Shad "Bow Wow" Moss). But that isn't so easy — when they're not fighting each other, they are fighting their own families. Tammy's two sons are disrespectful and crazed and her relationship with her husband Harold (Rodney Perry) has degenerated into constant fighting and insults. Kimberly is irrationally angry at everyone (and if you've ever seen a Tyler Perry movie before, you know that kind of angry means dark secrets from her past), particularly husband Calvin (Isaiah Mustafa) but even her baby son. Young Byron has just come home from jail and is trying to get his life back together but his baby's mother Sabrina (Teyana Taylor) and his new girlfriend Renee (Lauren London) are both leaning hard on him for money. A life of crime might be his only way to satisfy them. When Shirley can't bring her children together, she turns to Madea for help.

Comic relief B plot has Madea and her brother Joe (also Perry) dealing with her daughter Cora (Tamela J. Mann) and Cora's father Brown (David Mann).

The interweaving of these two parts of the movie is not the most subtle. Family drama *yank* fat joke *yank* family secret *yank* pot joke — being pulled between high melodrama and low comedy at this pace is a bit exhausting. Like so many of Perry's Madea movies, this one ultimately tries to offer substantial commentary on half-a-dozen serious issues — paternal responsibility, child abuse, husband-and-wife relationships, discipline, familial unity, crime as a job option, diabetes — along with some more subtle stuff about race, all at lightning speed. With fat jokes and the increasingly exaggerated sight-gag that are Madea's boobs interspersed. It's a jumble and one that makes it hard to lose yourself in the story. Pick one, I wanted to say — be a big broad comedy with a little bit of message. Or be a melodrama with occasional guffaws. This particular blend is too much and not enough, all at the same time.

Particularly when it focuses on Madea and her family, the movie's laughing-at/laughing-with balance seems out of whack. Perhaps because he's spreading the franchise too thin or because he's running out of new things to do with Madea, her character is feeling more and more like a caricature in a way that almost feels cruel after a while, particularly in a scene that is just one extended fat joke. Something in either the construction or the delivery of some of the Madea humor just feels off.

Fans of the franchise will no doubt find exactly what they're looking for in *Big Happy Family* but it isn't likely to bring anyone new to the table. **C-**

Rated PG-13 for drug content, language and some mature thematic material. Written and directed by Tyler Perry, Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family *is an hour and 46 minutes long and distributed in wide release by Lionsgate.*

Cinema locator

AMC Tyngsborough
440 Middlesex St., Tyngsborough, Mass., 978-649-3980.
Chunky's Cinema & Pub Nashua
151 Coliseum Ave., chunkys.com
Chunky's Pelham Cinema & Pub
150 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-7499
Cinemagic Hooksett
1226 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 644-4629, cinemagicmovies.com
Cinemagic Merrimack 12
11 Executive Place Dr., Merrimack, 423-0240, cinemagicmovies.com
Flagship Cinemas Derry
10 Ashleigh Dr., Derry, 437-8800
AMC at The Loop
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282 Loudon Road, Concord, 226-3800
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Movies outside the cineplex

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, www.redrivertheatres.org

• ***Made in Dagenham*** (R, 2010) Thurs., April 28, at 2:10, 5:40 & 7:55 p.m.

• ***Jane Eyre*** (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., April 28, at 2 & 5:25 p.m.; Fri., April 29, through Sun., May 1, at 12:25, 3, 5:35 & 8:10 p.m.; Mon., May 2, at 2, 5:25 & 8 p.m.; Tues., May 3, at 2 & 5:@5 p.m.; Wed., May 4, and Thurs., May 5, at 2, 5:25 & 8 p.m.

• ***Win Win*** (R, 2011) Thurs., April 28, at 2:05 & 7:50 p.m.; Fri., April 29, through Sun., May 1, at 12:45, 3:15, 5:45 & 8:15 p.m.; Mon., May 2, at 2:05, 5:30 & 7:50 pm.; Tues., May 3, at 2:05 & 7:50 p.m.; Wed., May 4, at 2:05 & 7:50 p.m.; Thurs., May 5, at 2:05, 5:30 & 7:50 p.m.

• ***Bill Cunningham New York*** (NR, 2011) Fri., April 29, at 2:10 & 5:40 p.m.; Sat., April 30, and Sun., May 1, at 2:10, 5:40 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., May 2, and Tues., May 3, at 2:10, 5:40 & 7:30 p.m.; Wed., May 4, at 5:40 & 7:30 p.m.; Thurs., May 5, at 2:10, 5:40 & 7:30 p.m.

• ***Black Light*** (NR, mature content) Fri., April 29, at 8 p.m. Written and directed by NH native Andrew Bemis, *Black Light* was filmed in western Massachusetts and tells the story of the friendship between a dancer at a club and a college grad working at a fossil and rock shop. Screening will be followed by Q&A.

• ***Crossing*** (NR, 2008) Tues., May 3, at 6 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL

Main Street in Wilton, wiltontownhalltheatre.com, 654-FILM.

• ***The Adjustment Bureau*** (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., April 28, at 7:30 p.m.

• ***Biutiful*** (R, 2010) Thurs., April 28, at 7:30 p.m.

• ***Jane Eyre*** (PG-13, 2011) Fri., April 29, through Thurs., May 5, at 7:30 p.m. Plus, Sun., May 1, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.

• ***Country Strong*** (PG-13, 2010) Fri., April 29, through Thurs., May 5, at 7:30 p.m. Plus, Sun., May 1, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.

• **Bollywood festival**, a full day of Indian film including video shorts and two feature-length films (including 1957's *Mother India*), on Sat., April 30, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. See www.newenglandbollywood.blogspot.com.

• ***Speedway*** (1929) Sun., May 29, at 4:30 p.m. Silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis.

MILFORD DRIVE-IN

Route 101A in Milford, 673-4090, milforddrivein.com. Open Friday and Saturday; drive-in opens at 6:15 p.m.; movies begin at dusk. Admission is $20 per car (up to 6 occupants).

• **Screen 1:** *Fast Five* (PG-13); *Your Highness* (R)

• **Screen 2:** *Rio* (PG); *Hop* (PG)

THE JAM FACTORY

1211 Elm St., Manchester, www.thejamfactorynh.com

• ***Finale*** (www.finalethemovie.com) and ***God of Vampires*** (godofvampires.com) on Sat., April 30, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Eent is 21+; suggested donation of $5.

PALACE THEATRE

80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, www.palacetheatre.org

Silent movie screenings will feature live music by Jeff Rapsis. Admission costs $8 per person.

• ***Sadie Thompson*** (1928) Monday, May 16, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us

• ***Sand Pebbles*** (NR, 1966) Wed., May 4, at 1 p.m.

• ***Inception*** (NR, 2010) Tues., May 10, at 6 p.m.; Wed., May 11, at 1 p.m.

• ***The Horse Whisperer*** (PG-13, 1998) Wed., May 18, at 1 p.m.

• ***The Outsiders*** (PG, 1983) Wed., May 25, at 1 p.m.

• ***TRON: Legacy*** (PG, 2010) Tues., May 31, at 4 p.m.

• ***Takers*** (PG-13, 2010) Wed., June 1, at 1 p.m.

• ***The Sandlot*** (PG, 1993) Wed., June 8, at 1 p.m.

• ***The Social Network*** (PG-13, 2010) Tues., June 14, at 6 p.m. and Wed., June 15, at 1 p.m.

• ***Tommy*** (PG, 1975) Wed., June 22, at 1 p.m.

• ***Little Women*** (PG, 1994) Wed., June 29, at 1 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, www.manchester.lib.nh.us

• ***Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows*** (PG-13, 2010) Fri., April 28, at 3 p.m.

• ***Gulliver's Travels*** (PG, 2010) Fri., May 6, at 3 p.m.

• ***Green Hornet*** (PG-13, 2011) Fri., May 13, at 3 p.m.

• ***Yogi Bear*** (G, 2010) Fri., May 20, at 3 p.m.

• ***Gnomeo & Juliet*** (G, 2011) Fri., May 27, at 3 p.m.

HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY

1701B Hooksett Road, 485-6092, www.hooksett.lib.nh.us

Free films and popcorn.

• ***Legends of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole*** (PG, 2010) Sat., May 21, at 2 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for the library's film line, a schedule of upcoming movies. Films subject to change. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted in the theater.

• ***Rabbit Hole*** (R, 2010) Fri., April 29, at 7 p.m.

• ***Ratatouille*** (G, 2007) Sat., April 30, at 2 p.m.

• ***The Work of 1000***, a 30-minute film about Marion Stoddart, the 1960s housewife who organized the clean-up effort for the Nashua River, will screen on Tues., May 24, at 7 p.m. Filmmaker Susan Edwards will lead a post film discussion about the rive. See www.workof1000.org.

THE MUSIC HALL

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, www.themusichall.org

• ***Kings of Pastry*** (NR, 2010) Thurs., April 28, at 7 p.m.

• ***Barney's Version*** (R, 2010) Fri., April 29, through Thurs., May 5, at 7 p.m. Plus, Sun., May 1, at 2 p.m.

NEWBURYPORT SCREENING ROOM

82 State St.., Newburyport, Mass., 978-462-3456, www.newburyportmovies.com

• ***Jane Eyre*** (PG-13, 2011) April 28 through May 5: Fridays at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Saturdays at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sundays at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mondays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

OTHER

• ***WAITING FOR SUPERMAN*** (PG, 2010) will be screened Sat., April 30, by the Derry Democrats at the Adams Memorial Opera House Green Room, 29 W. Broadway, in Derry. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., movie starts at 6:45 p.m. with discussion to follow until 9:30 p.m. Suggested donation is $10 and the event includes a dessert buffet.

• **48 HOUR FILM PROJECT** Make the movie you've always wanted to make (with a few caveats) during the 48-Hour Film Project. The event featuring break-neck filmmaking and competition between local auteurs will take place Friday, June 10, through Sunday, June 12, with registration open now. Filmmaking teams gather on Friday night to get a character, a prop, a line of dialogue and a genre to include in their movie. Then the 48 hours of writing, directing, acting and editing begins. Films must be completed 48 hours later and turned in on time to qualify for the competition. The registration is limited to 26 teams and each team must pay a $140 registration fee, according to a press release. Register, first come, first served, at www.48hourfilm.com/newhampshire. A screening of all the entries will be held on Wednesday, June 15, at Cinemagic theaters in Hooksett. Judges will choose an entry a winning film to go to the international competition. Call or e-mail Katie and Bill Cote at 494-3505 or newhampshire@48hourfilm.com for more.

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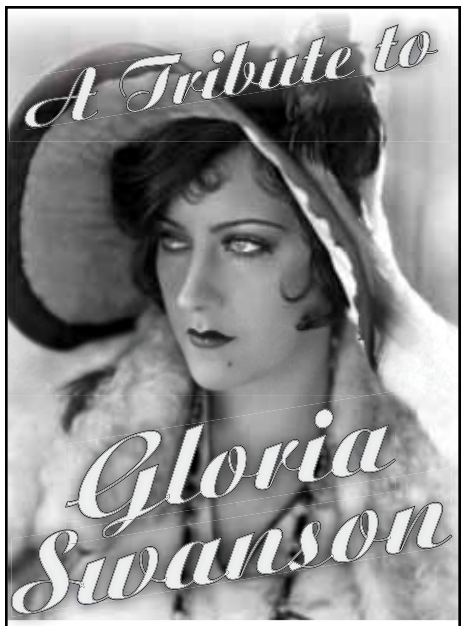

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Nite Roundup

Local music & nightlife news

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

• **Future cool:** A bit of the Electric Daisy Festival comes to Hudson every Friday as DJ Knolagy spins sounds straight out of Miami, SoCal, and Maui clubs at the weekly gathering in the California Room. The event is billed as "dress to impress" and is a BYOB affair as well, with movies playing on a big-screen TV in a separate room. Attend Live House/ Techno Music with DJ Knolagy every Friday at 8 p.m. at the California Room, 290 Derry Road in Hudson. For more information, call 578-9900.

• **Irish rover:** Epping's Holy Grail wears its Irish proudly every day of the year, as the St, Patrick's countdown clock on its website attests. Celtic pride is apparent in the live music choices, like Danny Quinn, a veteran performer who over the years has shared the stage with the Clancy Brothers, Robbie O'Connell, the Makem & Spain Brothers, Eileen Ivers and the Chieftains. See Danny Quinn on Thursday, April 28, at 8:30 p.m. at the Holy Grail, 64 Main St. in Epping, www.theholygrailpub.com.

• **Gypsy dancers:** Connecticut-based Caravan of Thieves says it's the band to hire "if Django Reinhardt, the cast of *Stomp* and the Beatles all had a party at Tim Burton's house." This time around, however, the lively quintet will ply its high-energy, jazz-infused rhythms for a college crowd, though visitors are welcome. See Caravan of Thieves on Friday, April 29, at 6 p.m. at Chester College, 40 Chester St. in Chester. Tickets are $20 for non-students. Go to www.chestercollege.edu.

• **Soleil Day:** Boston buzz band David Wax Museum, blending mariachi rhythms with soulful grooves, tops a bill with retro funksters Lovewhip, along with local stalwarts Hot Day at the Zoo, Jamantics and Shagimaw — all powered by solar electricity. The free show, organized by the UNH Student Environmental Action Coalition, culminates the college's Earth Week. Attend the UNH Solarfest 2011 on Sunday, May 1, at 10 a.m. at Boulder Field, University of New Hampshire in Rochester. Go to www.unh.edu.

• **Sister act:** Like fellow folkies Crooked Still and Eilen Jewell, the music of Ari & Mia sounds bottled in amber, a throwback to a bygone era. The sister duo's debut album, *Unruly Heart*, hit number two on the national folk radio charts, and Mia won last year's John Lennon Songwriting Contest, so modern audiences seem to like them too. See Ari & Mia on Friday, April 29, at 7 p.m. at the Dolphin Striker, 15 Bow St. in Portsmouth. Tickets $15 at www.mktix.com/heptunes.

Rosanne Cash curates The List

Singer-songwriter tackles the canon of country music

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

When singer/songwriter Rosanne Cash was still a teenager, she spent a summer on tour with her famous father, Johnny Cash. To ground her in country music traditions, he gave her a list of 100 songs essential to the genre — standards popularized by Patsy Cline, Hank Williams, Jimmie Rogers and others. In 2009, she released a dozen of them as *The List*; the album was eventually nominated for a Grammy. In 2010, Cash published a memoir, *Composed*. Cash, who performs May 5 in Concord with her husband and producer John Leventhal, spoke with the Hippo by telephone recently from her home in New York City.

Why is The List so important?

I think you need to know the tradition you're building your own work on. Nobody's original. If you don't know the traditions you come from, how are going to expand on it and bring yourself to it, you know? I used to teach songwriting and sometimes I still do these classes at colleges, and a lot of them have the hubris to think that everything that spews out of them expressively is enough. That's a young person's way of thinking about art, I guess. I'm sure I thought that way too. But you have to refine your skills and it becomes about 80 percent discipline, or at least 50 percent, and you have to know the tradition you're writing. Think of all the great modern writers. They're all read Tolstoy, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Chekhov, and they know where they come from. It's why they can expand on what they're doing. It's the same thing for songwriters or musical people working in American roots.

You've said The List was an antidote for an era where people make music without ever learning to play an instrument.

Well, that's the most egregious example of that.

Are you concerned about where music is going?

Well, no, because I have a daughter who is steeped in everything from Louis Prima to the Sex Pistols to Dolly Parton to Leonard Cohen. She has the most expansive musical knowledge of anyone I know and she's a songwriter and musician and she's immersed in that. So it's not that it's becoming one thing, it's just a prevalent trend right now. But it doesn't mean that people are giving up being real musicians.

The List ***ends at the start of the '70s — if you were to create your own list leading to the present day, what would it look like?***

Well, I've actually given some thought to that because Chelsea asked for a list. There would definitely be overlaps with my dad's list. I would still have "Long Black Veil" on mine and probably "Motherless Children" and "Girl From the North Country." But I grew up after '73 and I was influenced by all the things that were there growing up in Southern California. I would have the Beatles on mine, Neil Young and probably a Springsteen song, maybe a Rolling Stones song. "What's Going On" — Marvin Gaye … it would be different but there would be an overlap.

You've expressed distaste for being on the road; how have the book and music tours of the past year been for you?

I've got five shows this month, four last month, a few in January, so it's not as intense as right after *The List* — October 2009 through October 2010 was pretty intense, we were in and out all the time. But we've got a 12-year-old, we're not going to go out and leave him alone during the school year for two weeks or anything. We do these kind of strategic slides on weekends, until it's summer and it eases up a little bit. I enjoy it. I get burnt out on going through airport security, but I enjoy the gigs.

Does performing with your husband, John Leventhal, help that?

Yeah, absolutely, particularly these duo shows where a lot of it's driving and we get to hang out, talk, eat together. It's a lot of fun.

I'm a huge admirer of John Leventhal's mix of control and ability to inspire great performances. Michael Streissguth compared him to a musical version of Scorsese or Hitchcock. How much do you surrender, if anything, in the studio process and what does it mean to the music as you've conceived it in the songwriting process versus the finished product?

Well, that is difficult to answer, because we have a great working relationship in the studio. Surrender might not be the best word. Acquiesce might often be a better way to put it. It's not really often that we have really diametrically opposed ideas about how to do something. He's got better language for it than I do. He can hear voicings that I don't hear and chords. He's actually quite amazing, I often get awestruck at how good he is at what he does. So I feel lucky, he brings a lot to what I can do. We complement each other pretty well because we do very different things. He's not a singer really and he doesn't really write lyrics.

Your last two records have focused on your father's legacy. What's next for you — are you working on a Rosanne Cash project?

Yes, I am. You know, I wouldn't say *Black Cadillac* was much about my legacy; it was about loss and mourning. But still, you're right, peripherally it was connected to them. But yeah, I'm writing songs now for a new project, I've got several songs done, and I'm doing some small projects as well. I wrote the liner notes for a box set on to digital of some really old Appalachian and Southern songs. But yes, the next record's going to be me and my songs; I couldn't do *The List 2* next.

Are you going to do the project to curate the originals from the **List?**

Yeah, I think that's a good idea. Right now, I have so many ideas for projects that I'm afraid I won't get them done before I die.

Rosanne Cash. Courtesy photo by Deborah Feingold.

Don't say that! But I suppose having a full plate is better than an empty horizon.

It's exciting! You know, I never get bored. Everything's still very exciting to me.

Early in your career, you covered John Hiatt and other young songwriters. Do you still have your ear to the wind for talent? Has anyone caught your attention?

Of course! Colin Molloy of the Decemberists I think is one of the greatest songwriters out there right now. He's so good, in a real roots tradition, but so literate, incredibly cinematic, almost like William Blake. He has a sense of poetry but he's really grounded in pop melodies. I think Cory Chisel has a lot of potential. He's a brand new guy; he's got a couple of gorgeous songs. The Civil Wars, have you heard them? My daughter, I'm really excited about. There are a lot of young people out there that are so interesting.

The Johnny Cash television show was fairly radical in the non-traditional artists it gave exposure to. Do you have any memories of that time and the creativity flowing through your father and some of those people?

Not who you would think. I was already — when Derek and the Dominoes, and Joni Mitchell, Dylan and Linda Ronstadt and all those people were on, that was my language. I was so excited, and it made me so cool in the eyes of my friends. The people who I got introduced to were more like Louis Armstrong. I remember that show well, it was beautiful and I thought, well, that's cool, you know? I wasn't somebody who would have found Louis Armstrong on my own at the age of 14.

Rosanne Cash
When: Thursday, May 5, at 8 p.m.
Where: Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St. in Concord
Tickets: $35, $40 & $55 at www.ccahn.com

Harmony as a trio

The Gentlemen Outfit builds worldwide following

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

The burgeoning Somerville music scene feeds talent to Nashua on a regular basis. It's a quick drive and more importantly a receptive audience. The latest group to make the trip is The Gentlemen Outfit, an acoustic rock duo that just became a trio.

Specializing in harmonies that are equal parts Guster and Everly Brothers with a loping Dave Matthews groove, they've built a worldwide following for their live act through a well-fed YouTube page containing many professionally filmed videos.

"When are you coming to Cali?" implores one fan on the comments page; another requests a band visit to Australia.

World tours will happen in good time — this fall, they plan to hit the U.S. college circuit. But at present The Gentleman Outfit is hard at work on its first album, a concept effort featuring five songs from singer/guitarist Jesse McCullagh and one by percussionist/vocalist Jim LaSuer (videos of three tracks are already online). Guitarist Stevo Mann recently joined the group to, he says, to "do electric noodling and add to what Jesse and Jim do so well."

McCullagh and LaSuer met in college; the two played together for a couple of years until LaSuer graduated. McCullagh played in a few bands before deciding to try out for the eighth season of *American Idol*. He made it through regional auditions and flew to Hollywood, narrowly missing a chance to be on the show.

"I sang for Paula, Simon and Randy on four occasions before I got cut — it was great," he says. "I got kind of a boost from that encouragement and decided to do music as a career." So McCullagh moved back to Boston, determined to work his way into the scene.

One day, his college friend called to see if was still doing music. With help from New Hampshire promoter Steve Kay, they quickly booked their first shows. Soon they were playing beach clubs in Newburyport and refining their sound. That was almost a year ago, and they've been at it ever since, with LaSuer tapping a conga-like Djimbe and harmonizing while McCullagh strums an acoustic guitar and sings lead.

McCullagh says the band divides its time between playing covers in clubs and originals at festivals, colleges and open-minded Boston area venues like the Precinct and Copperfield's: "We lead two different lives as musicians."

This leads to some very inventive covers. The Lady GaGa hit "Bad Romance" is done as a medley with "Round Here" by Counting Crows. What looks impossible on paper simply pops in their hands, as does a folked-up version of the Jackson 5's "I Want You Back" with four-part harmonies featuring McCullagh's wife Sara-Jane.

2/3 of The Gentlemen Outfit. Courtesy photo.

In short, they excel at performing familiar songs in an unfamiliar way. "That's what we have to do to make it worthwhile," says McCullagh. "We really try to spin all the covers we do in a way that's interesting. We think about each one a lot."

McCullagh cites Dispatch and Jason Mraz as personal influences, particularly Mraz's live shows with percussionist Toca Rivera. "They're so impressive together, almost one unit always," he says. "That's what Jim and I try to do, just move together, and we're always on the same wavelength when it's right."

LaSuer provides a rock element. "He recently declared that Breaking Benjamin is his favorite band," says McCullagh. "It's awesome — he perks up all of our tunes and gives them the hits and different things that catch your ear; his influence brings it together solidly."

The group is exited about returning to New Hampshire. They've played shows at Fody's Tavern (helped by musician friend Charlie Christos), the Peddler's Daughter and Halligan Tavern in Derry. McCullagh once performed solo at Stella Blu, but this will be The Gentleman Outfit's first appearance there.

"I had a great time," recalls McCullagh. "I'm looking forward to going back."

The Gentleman Outfit
When: Friday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Stella Blu, 70 East Pearl St. in Nashua, www.stellablu-nh.com
The Gentleman Outfit video channel: www.youtube.com/thegentlemanoutfit

Nightlife Listings

Music, comedy & parties

• **ALDOUS COLLINS** will perform at Goffstown High School, 27 Wallace Road, Goffstown, on Fri., April 29, at 7:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted at the concert to help save the Crispin's House afterschool program.

• **DANCING WITH THE STARS** featuring celebrity contestants from WZID and dancers from the Royal Palace Dance Studio will be showcased at the mall of New Hampshire, 1500 S. Willow St., Manchester, on Sat., April 30, from 1 to 3 p.m. Rico Barr and the Jump 'N' Jive Review will perform.

• **BREAST CANCER BENEFIT** Angels with Attitude will hold their annual "Pink Party" at the Holiday Inn, 172 N. Main St., Concord, on Sat., May 2, at 7:30 p.m. The event will feature silent auctions, raffles and a performance by Mama Kicks. Tickets cost $15 in advance and $20 at the door and may be purchased at angelswithattitude2011@hotmail.com or 428-2429.

• **LORI MCKENNA** will perform at Anderson Hall at Brewster Academy, 205 S. Main St., Wolfeboro, on Fri., May 6, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost $18 in advance at 515-1003, $20 at the door ($13 for children in advance and $15 at the door). Tickets are also available at The Wolfeboro Inn, Made On Earth, Stay Tuned and Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro.

• **BANDAPALOOZA**, a show by the Nashua High South concert, jazz and honors jazz bands, will be performed at the Nashua High School South auditorium, 36 Riverside St., Nashua, on Wed., May 11, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost $10 at www.nashuasouthmusic.org or 589-8540.

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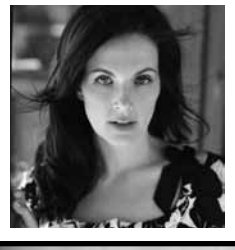
LORI McKENNA



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Skyler reaches high

Band of Thieves performs across Northeast

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Skyler. Courtesy photo.

It was one of the last songs in their set, and when the band came to the part in the tune where the music takes a short pause, the audience kept singing.

Skyler (who goes by only his first name) and his bandmates looked at each other in awe. "That was a pretty amazing moment," Skyler said.

A love of music was instilled in Skyler when his parents played their old Beatles records when he was only three years old. Now 19, Skyler released his second EP on April 20.Though he did not pick up the guitar until age 11 (after mastering the drums), Skyler began writing his own songs in third grade.

"I've always had the ambition, ever since middle school, to be in a band, to be a performer and singer," Skyler said

Skyler, of York, Maine, formed his first band in middle school but had his first vocal performance in the third grade — on the playground singing to all the girls. He has since performed across the Northeast with his band, Band of Thieves, whose name was inspired by lyric from a Taylor Swift song ("A band of thieves in ripped up jeans got to rule the world"). "We're all actually really big fans of Taylor Swift," Skyler said, adding that the country, pop and rock sound of his music has resulted in comparisons to the blonde country star.

Two of Skyler's four bandmates serve as his writing partners. The trio has been getting together about three times a week over the past three or four years for writing sessions. "We just sit around talking until we have something we want to write about, non sequiturs that we think would be a really good line for a song, and go from there," Skyler said, adding that most of their songs are about girls.

"What else is there to write about?" he asked.

While unable to choose only one a song as his favorite, Skyler said he has had the most fun with "Stephanie," a tune he wrote about an "absolutely amazing" girl from high school who had a boyfriend. He also had a girlfriend when he wrote the song.

"Often the most embarrassing or awkward personal situations end up being the best songs, most relatable songs," Skyler said. When Stephanie's boyfriend figured out (more than a year later) that Skyler's song was about her, he tried to fight him in the middle of an Applebee's, Skyler said. And while it never did work out with Stephanie, Skyler said she will still occasionally text him about someone discovering his song.

Skyler met another one of his bandmates on his first day at the Berklee School of Music in Boston, where he studied for a year before deciding to perform full-time.

"I still do odd jobs here and there, but for the most part I just do the music," Skyler said.

With two EPs under his belt, Skyler said he plans to write more songs and continue playing as many shows as possible to get his music out there.

Music by Skyler is available on iTunes.

See Skyler perform at Rocko's
253 Wilson St., Manchester, on Thursday, April 28, at 5 p.m.

CONCERTS

Venues
Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org
Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavillion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net
The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Rd., Francestown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com
Whittemore Center Arena UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, www.whittcenter.com

- **Jason Aldean** Thurs., April 28, at 7:30 p.m., Verizon Wireless
- **Peter Mayer** Fri, April 29, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Linda Eder** Fri., April 29, at 8 p.m., Colonial
- **Matt Koziol** Fri., April 29, at 10 p.m., Boynton's
- **Third Eye Blind** Fri., April 29, at 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
- **Shawn Mullins** Sat., April 30, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Dueling pianos** Sat., April 30, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
- **UFO** Thurs., May 5, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Roseanne Cash** Thurs., May 5, at 8 p.m., Cap Center
- **Deftones** Thurs., May 5, at 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
- **Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra** Fri., May 6, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Nick Young** Fri., May 6, at 10 p.m., Boynton's
- **Guster** Fri., May 6, at 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom

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whitesnake ..... Sunday, August 21

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GUSTER Friday {May 6}

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THUR 5/19 HINDER

THURSDAY, MAY 26 Butterfly Valentine {an all ages show}

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comedian AZIZ ANSARI Sunday, June 26

STEEL PULSE THURSDAY JUNE 30

BADFISH a tribute to SUBLIME SATURDAY JULY 2

comedian JOHN PINETTE sunday july 3

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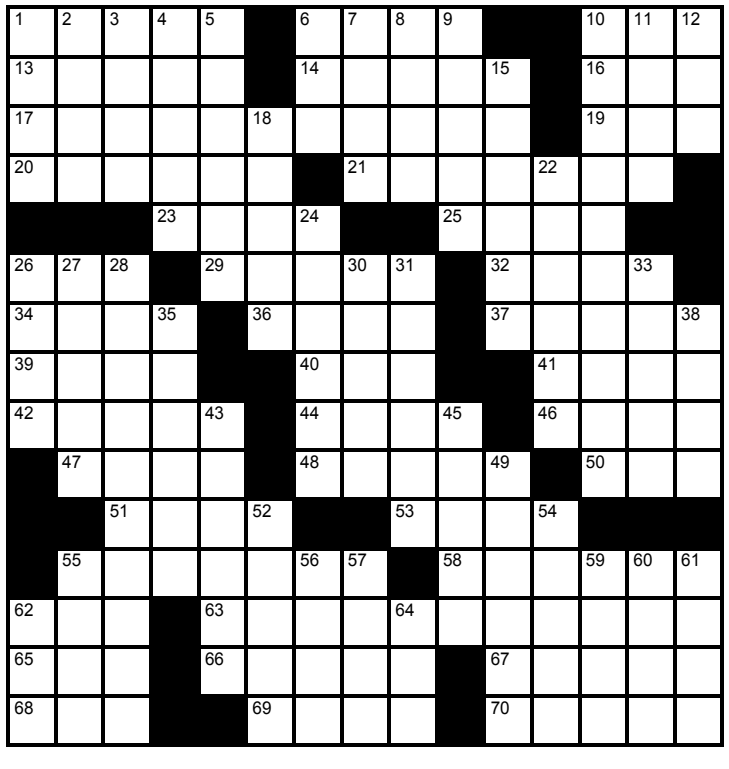
Walkng on the puzzle — RockandRollCrosswords.com by Todd Santos

Across

1. One of Tommy's requests (3,2)
6. "You didn't stand __ __, no not at all" (2,2)
10. Bio bit
13. What A&R exec's words got after rejected band blew up
14. Historic New Haven, CT venue ___ Place
16. Recording studio?
17. '99 Smash Mouth album (5,6)
19. Formerly Disneyland After Dark
20. 80s band Human ___
21. Cat Power debut (4,3)
23. DC band that scrambled in '95?
25. Skid Row '___ Act'
26. Ginger Baker trio



29. Everclear song about a bad person?
32. 'Aerie Faerie Nonsense' band
34. Character in 'Rock The Casbah' video
36. Not prerecorded
37. ___ Doggy Dogg
39. Toto 'Hold The __'
40. Classic '85 Replacements album
41. 'Orinoco Flow (Sail Away)' singer
42. Ronnie and Brody
44. 'If I Could Make A Living' Walker
46. Bruce "Walk __, or baby don't walk at all"
47. Kiss 'Rock And Roll All __'
48. Zebrahead '___To You'
50. Old school rocker Arthur
51. Do it to the bass
53. 'Running Up That Hill' Bush
55. '89 Madonna smash
58. Page Hamilton band
62. Rocker's nemesis, usually during day
63. 'Take Me To The ___ ___' LMC vs U2 (6,5)
65. Smash Mouth song off 'Fush Yu Mang'
66. Queens Of The Stone Age Josh
67. Dead Kennedys '____ Majority'
68. Bandleader Kyser
69. Pre-CD
70. Crue's 'Generation'

4/21

A	R	A	B	■	A	B	B	A	■	S	T	A	L	L
S	U	R	E	■	S	L	A	P	■	C	H	R	I	S
I	N	C	H	■	S	I	R	E	■	A	R	M	E	D
■	T	H	E	B	I	G	E	X	P	R	E	S	S	■
■	■	■	R	O	S	E	■	■	■	A	Y	E	■	■
■	S	C	E	N	T	■	A	P	T	■	■	S	E	W
A	T	O	N	E	■	I	G	E	T	■	L	I	T	A
N	O	M	O	R	E	M	R	N	I	C	E	G	U	Y
D	R	E	W	■	T	I	E	S	■	H	A	N	D	S
Y	E	T	■	■	O	N	E	■	L	E	V	E	E	■
■	■	■	V	O	W	■	■	H	O	S	E	■	■	■
■	O	C	E	A	N	B	R	E	A	T	H	E	S	■
A	P	A	R	T	■	R	I	A	D	■	O	V	A	L
S	E	R	V	E	■	A	C	R	E	■	M	A	N	E
K	N	E	E	S	■	T	O	D	D	■	E	N	D	O

Down

1. 'Don't Cry' singer
2. What Commodores take their Sunday morning with
3. Iconic soul/blues singer James
4. NC label
5. Disturbed song that had it?
6. 'Taking Care Of Business' band (abbr)
7. Death Cab's 'Why __ Want To Live Here'
8. Rock image accessory
9. Johnny Winter's albino bro
10. Not full member
11. Paraphernalia
12. Pearl Jam 'The __'
15. Run of shows
18. King's X '___ Kill'
22. "Little song" form
24. What wardrobe will do
26. '69 Iron Butterfly album
27. May of Queen
28. Blues standard about adulthood? (7,3)
30. UK thrash metal band
31. "That was a wonderful ___" Van
33. Bramhall II
35. Alexander ____
38. Goth color
43. 'The ____ Is Over' Survivor
45. Yeah Yeah ____
49. Threshold 'Heady ___'
52. System Of A Down 'Jet ___'
54. 'Cast Of Thousands' Brits
55. Eagles Of Death Metal's is 'Cherry'
56. Chicago recording studio
57. What rocker will do to groupie
59. Flyleaf 'Memento ___'
60. Cranley of Stars
61. "Turn on the __ every thing so shady" Tech N9ne
62. Devo 'The Spirit Of __'
64. 'I Wanna Rock' Snider

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Written By: Todd Santos

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MUSIC THIS WEEK

Allenstown
Ground Zero
48 Allenstown Rd.

Amherst
Club Comedy at Amherst Country Club
72 Ponemah Road, 673-9908

Auburn
Auburn Pitts
167 Rockingham Rd, 622-6564
Holidays Bar and Grill
346 Hooksett Road, 483-0880

Barrington
Chip 'N Run Pub Nippo Lake Golf Course, 550 Province Rd. 664-2030

Barnstead
Barnstead Music Hall 96 Maple St., 269-2000

Bedford
Slammers
547 Donald St., 668-2120

Belmont
The Lodge at Belmont
Route 106, 877-872-2501
Top of the Town
88 Ladd Hill Rd, 528-3244
Vineyards Restaurant
171 DW Highway

Boscawen
Alan's
133 N. Main St., 753-6631

Brookline
The Loft at the Grange
12 Main St., 315-9423

Candia
Henderson's Pickin' Parlor
179 Raymond Rd, 483-5001

Concord
The Barley House
132 N. Main St., 228-6363
Beijing & Tokyo
61 S. Main St., 228-0888
Green Martini
6 Pleasant St., 223-6672
Hermanos
11 Hills Ave., 224-5669
Loudon Road Restaurant and Pit Road Lounge
388 Loudon Rd, 226-0533
Makris
354 Sheep Davis, 225-7665
Penuche's Ale House
6 Pleasant St., 228-9833
The Red Blazer
72 Manchester St., 224-4101

Contoocook
Beech Hill Farm
107 Beech Hill Rd

Davisville
Muddy Pond Jazz Deal
grounds of Davisville Flea Market, 805 Route 103 East (exit 7 off I-89), 746-4000

Deerfield
Lazy Lion Café
4 North Road, 463-7374

Derry
Adams Opera House
29 W. Broadway/ Rte 102
Brookstone Grille
14 Route 11 E., 328-9250
Burgundy's Billiards
35 Manchester St., 437-6600
Coffee Factory
55 Crystal Ave., 432-6006
Deerhead Club
314 Londonderry Turnpike,
Halligan Tavern
32 W. Broadway, 965-3490
King's Row
1 E. Broadway
Steve-N-James Tavern
187 Rockingham, 434-0600

Dover
American Legion Post 8
640 Central Ave.
Barley Pub
328 Central Ave.,742-4226
Dover Elks Lodge
282 Durham Road
Dover Bowl
887 Central Ave., 742-9632
Dover Brick House
2 Orchard St., 749-3838
11th Frame Bar
887 B Central Ave., 742-9632
Fury's Publick House
312 DW Highway, 617-3633
Jimmy's Sports Bar
15 Mechanic St., 740-4477
Kelley's Row
421 Central Ave., 750-7081
The Loft at Strafford Farms
58 Route 108, 743-3045
RJ's
83 Washington St.
Roger's Pizza
869 Central Ave., 742-9870
Station House
11 Fourth St., 743-4489
Top of the Chop
One Orchard St., 740-0006

Durham
Acorns Restaurant
15 Strafford Ave., 862-2815

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch
Windymere Dr., 736-9656

Epping
American Legion
232 Calef Hwy. (Rt. 125)
Holy Grail Food & Spirits
64 Main St., 679-9559

Exeter
Shooter's Pub
10 Columbus Ave., 772-3856

Gilford
Ellacoya Barn & Grille
2667 Lakeshore Rd, 293-8700
Gunstock Ski Area
719 Cherry Valley Road, 293-4341
Patrick's
18 Weirs Road, 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle
25 Main St., 497-8230
Wa Toy
611 Mast Road, 668-1088

Hampstead
The Pasta Loft
220 E. Main St., 378-0092
Route 111 Village Square
472 State St., 329-6879

Hampton
Boardwalk Inn
139 Ocean Blvd., 929-7400
Breakers By the Sea
409 Ocean Blvd, 926-7702
La Bec Rouge
73 Ocean Blvd, 926-5050
Old Salt
409 Lafayette Rd, 926-8322
Sea Shell Stage
on Ocean Blvd.
Ron's Landing
379 Ocean Blvd, 929-2122,
Wally's Pub
144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954
Whales Tales
169 Ocean Blvd, 967-4771

Henniker
Daniel's
Main St., 428-7621
Pat's Peak Sled Pub
24 Flander's Road, 888-728-7732
The Henniker Junction
24 Weare Rd., 428-8511

Hillsborough
American Legion Post 59
538 West Main St
Boomerang's
37 Henniker St., 464-3912
Mr. Bill's Saloon
55 Henniker St.,

Hollis
Alpine Grove
19 S. Depot Rd, 882-9051

Hooksett
Asian Breeze
1328 Hooksett Rd, 621-9298

Hudson
Johnny's Pizzeria
Route 102, 943-5382
King's Court
222 Central St., 821-5100
Linda's Sport Bar
2B Burnham Rd, 886-0792

Kingston
The Kingston 1686 House Tavern
127 Main St., 642-3637
Rick's Cafe & Grille
143 Main St., 642-3833

Laconia
Anthony's Pier Restaurant
263 Lakeside Ave., 366-5855
Baja Beach Club @ China Bistro
89 Lake St., 524-0008
Black Cat Café
17 Veterans Sq., 528-3233
Broken Spoke Saloon
1072 Watson Rd, 366-5511
Cactus Jacks
1182 Union Ave., 528-7800
The Crazy Gringo
306 Lakeside Ave., 366-4411
Fratello's
799 Union Ave., 528-2022
Margate Resort
76 Lake St., 524-5210
Naswa Resort
1086 Weirs Blvd., 366-4341
Paradise Beach Club
322 Lakeside Ave., 366-2665
Patio Garden Restaurant
Lakeside Ave.
The Studio
84 Union St., 455.8008
Weirs Beach Lobster Pound
72 Endicott St., 366-2255
Weirs Beach Smokehouse
Rt 3 Laconia, 366-2400

Londonderry
Coach Stop Restaurant and Tavern
176 Mammoth Rd, 437-2022
Mayflower Grange
535 Mammoth Rd, 867-3077
Stumble Inn Bar & Grill
20 Rockingham Road
Whippersnappers
44 Nashua Road, 434-2660

Loudon
Graverobbers Coffeehouse
Loudon Congregational Church, 7018 Church St., 783-9478

Manchester
900 Degrees
50 Dow St., 641-0900
American Legion Wm H Jutras & Post No 43
56 Boutwell St., 623-9467
American Legion Post #79
35 W. Brook St.
American Legion Sweeney Post
251 Maple St., 623-9145
Black Brimmer
1087 Elm St., 669-5523
Bo's Riverside
500 Commercial St.,625-4444
Boynton's Taproom
155 Dow St., 623-7778
Breezeway Pub
14 Pearl St., 621-9111
City Sports Grille
216 Maple St., 625-9656
Club 313
93 S. Maple St., 628-6813
Club Liquid
23 Amherst St., 645-7600
Derryfield Country Club
625 Mammoth Rd, 623-2880
Don Quijote
333 Valley St., 792-1110
Element Lounge
1055 Elm St., 627-2922
Fratello's
155 Dow Street, 624-2022
Gaucho's Churrascaria
62 Lowell St., 669-9460
Hanover St. Chophouse
149 Hanover St., 644-2467
The Hilton Garden Inn
101 S. Commercial St., 669-2222
Ignite Bar & Grille
100 Hanover St., 494-6225
Jam Factory
1211 Elm St., 203-1458
Jewell & The Beanstalk
793 Somerville St., 624-3709
Jillian's Billiard Club
50 Philippe Cote Drive, 626-7636
Johnny Bad's
542 Elm St., 222-9191
J.W. Hill's
795 Elm St., 645-7422
Lafayette Club
387 Canal St., 623-9323
Lazy Nick's Coffee House
362 Huse Road, 232-7187
Mad Bob's Saloon
342 Lincoln St., 669-3049
McGarvey's
1097 Elm St., 627-2721
Milly's Tavern
500 Commercial St., 625-4444
Moe Joe's
2175 Candia Rd, 668-0131
Mulligan's
424 Lake Ave., 623-6342
Murphy's Taproom
494 Elm St., 644-3535
NH Institute of Art
148 Concord St.
New England Revival Coffehouse
Calvary Fellowship Church, 60 Bailey Ave., 625-9550,
Olympic Lounge
506 Valley St., 644-5559
Piccola's Upstairs Lounge
815 Elm St.
Penuche's Grill
96 Hanover St., 626-9830
Raxx Billiards
1211 Elm St., 203-1458
Rocko's Bar & Grill
253 Wilson St., 626-5866
The Shaskeen
909 Elm St., 625-0246
Starbucks
1111 S. Willow St., 641-4839
Strange Brew Tavern
88 Market St., 666-4292
Theos
102 Elm St., 669-4678
Unwine'd
865 Second St., 625-9463
Wally and Bernie's
20 Old Granite St., 641-2583
The Wild Rover
21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722
Workmen's Club
183 Douglas St.
XO on Elm
827 Elm St., 206-5721
The Yard
1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545
Z Food and Drink
860 Elm St.

Meredith
Camp
300 DW Highway, 279-3003
Giuseppe's Ristorante
312 DW Highway, 279-3313

Merrimack
The Homestead
641 DW Highway, 429-2022
Jade Dragon
515 DW Highway, 424-2280

Milford
American Legion
15 Cottage St., 673-9804
Chapanga's
168 Elm St., 249-5214
Elisha's Restaurant
437 Nashua St., 249.9353
J's Tavern
63 Union Sq., 249-9222
The Pasta Loft
241 Union Sq., 672-2270
Madison's Irish Pub
586 Nashua St.
Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills
50 Emerson Road, 673-7123

Nashua
The Amber Room
53 High St., 881-9060
Boston Billiard Club
55 Northeastern Blvd., 595-2121
The Bounty
Holiday Inn, 9 Northeastern Blvd., 800-230-4134
Club Social
45 Pine St., 889-9838
Country Tavern
452 Amherst St., 889-5871
Estabrook Grill
57 Palm St., 943-5035
Fody's Tavern
9 Clinton St., 577-9015
Gate City Pub
56 Canal St., 598-8256
Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall, 883-6662
Killarney's Irish Pub
Holiday Inn, 888-1551
Lafayette Club
34 High St, 889-9860
Laureano Nightclub
245 Main St.
Martha's Exchange
185 Main St., 883-8781
Michael Timothy's
212 Main St., 595-9334
Nashua Garden
121 Main St., 886-7363
Old Amsterdam Bar
8 Temple St., 204-5501
The Peddler's Daughter
48 Main St., 880-8686
Penuche's Ale House
4 Canal St., 595-9831
Pine Street Eatery
136 Pine St., 886-3501
The Polish American Club
15 School St., 889-9819
Sausage King
53 Main St., 204-5110
Shorty's
Nashua Mall, 882-4070
Simple Gifts Coffee House
58 Lowell St.
603 Lounge
14 W. Hollis St., 821-5260
The Sky Lounge
522 Amherst St., 882-6026
Slade's Food & Spirits
4 W. Hollis St., 886-1334
Stella Blu
70 E. Pearl St., 578-5557
Sun Plaza Bar & Grille
295 DW Hwy, 888-4904
Villa Banca
194 Main St., 598-0500

New Boston
Gravity Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd, 487-2011

Newmarket
Lamprey River Tavern
110 Main St., 659-3696
KJ's Sports Bar
N. Main St., 659-2329
Stone Church
5 Granite St., 292-3546

Newton
Hen House Sports Bar & Grill
85 S. Main St., 382-1705

Pelham
Shooters Billiards & Lounge
116 Bridge St., 635-3577

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub
3 School St., 924-6365
Peterborough Players Theater
Hadley Road

Plaistow
Corner Pocket
181 Plaistow Rd., 382-3130
Dugout Grille
93 Main St., 819-4947
The Sad Café
148 Plaistow Rd,382-8893

Portsmouth
American Legion Post 6
96 Islington St.
Blue Mermaid Island Grill hill at Hanover and High streets, 427-2583
Daniel Street Tavern
111 Daniel St.
Dolphin Striker
15 Bow St., 431-5222
Fat Belly's
2 Bow St. 610-4337
Gas Light Co.
64 Market St., 431-9122
The Hilton Garden Inn
100 High St., 431-1499
Jitto's Supersteak
3131 Lafayette Rd, 436-9755
The Music Hall
104 Congress St., 433-3100
Paddy's American Grill
27 International Dr., 430-9450
Players Ring Theater
105 Marcy St., 436-8123
Portsmouth Pearl
45 Pearl St., 431-0148,
Press Room
77 Daniel St.,431-5186
The Red Door
107 State St., 373-6827
Red Hook Brewery
35 Corporate Dr., 430-8600
Ri Ra Irish Pub
22 Market Square, 319-1680
Rudi's
20 High St., 430-7834
Rusty Hammer
49 Pleasant St., 436-9289
The Wet Bar
172 Hanover St.

Raymond
Famous Legends Bar & Grill at Strikers East
4 Essex Drive
Freetown Yankee Market
58 Route 27, 895-3418

Salem
Black Water Grill
43 Pelham Road, 328-9013
Jocelyn's Lounge
355 S. Broadway, 870-0045
Maggie May's
326 S. Broadway, 893-4055
Sayde's Restaurant
136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032
The Varsity Club
67 Main St., 898-4344

Sandown
The Crossing
328 Main St.

Seabrook
American Legion Post 70
169 Walton Road
Chop Shop Pub
920 Lafayette Rd, 474-6001
Honey Pot Bar & Lounge
920 Lafayette Rd, 760-2013
Master McGrath's
Route 107, Seabrook, 474-6540
Prime Time Sports Grill
620 Lafayette Rd, 760-7230

Stratham
Acoustic Outfitters
72 Portsmouth Ave.778-9711

Sunapee
One Mile West Tavern
6 Brook Road, 863-7500
Sunapee Coffee House
Methodist Church, Route 11

Tilton
Lakes Region Fitness
407 W. Main St., 286-3337
Thirsty Crows
504 Laconia Road, 524-5558

Windham
Jonathon's Lounge
Park Place Lanes, Route 28, 800-892-0568

Thursday, April 28

Auburn
Holiday's: Raising Scarlet

Bedford
Slammer's: live band karaoke

Candia
Henderson's: acoustic open mike

Concord
Green Martini: open mike w/ Steve Naylor
Hermanos: Scott Solsky
Pit Road Lounge: karaoke
Tandy's: DJ

Derry
Brookstone Grille: Eric McFadden

Dover
Barley Pub: bluegrass jam w/ Steve Roy
Brick House: Ted Leo, The Geoff Useless Band, Tim McCoy
Kelley's Row: DJ Evaredy
RJ's: DJ J-Smooth
Station House: open mike w/ Dave Nappy Band

Epping
Holy Grail: Danny Quinn

Gilford
Patrick's: Matt Tellier

Gofftsown
New Wa Toy: karaoke

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Lisa & Lisa
Village Square: DJ

Hudson
Johnny's: karaoke w/ Tony Zzz
Linda's: open mike w/ Scott Barnett

Laconia
Cactus Jack's: Aaron Siebert

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Paul Luff
Whippersnappers: John Paul & Train Wreck

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Mugshot
Cactus Jack's: Steve O
Club 313: DJ Suga Shane, karaoke w/ CJ
City Sports Grill: karaoke w/ D Jay G
Element: DJ Jason
Derryfield: Michael Troy
Rocko's: Skyler, Downtown Fiction, Cady Groves
Strange Brew: Soup du Jour
Unwine'd: Chad LaMarsh
Wild Rover: blues jam w/ Wan-Tu Blues Band

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Paul Warnick, karaoke

Merrimack
Homestead: Gary Lopez

Milford
Chapanga's: open mike w/ Driven
Pasta Loft: Morgan & Pete

Nashua
603 Lounge: karaoke w/ DJ Erin D
Amsterdam: DJ
Fody's: Josh Logan Band
Gate City Pub: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D
Studio 99: Brazil jam

New Boston
Gravity Tavern: Gardner

Newmarket
Stone Church: Tan Vampires

Newton
Hen House: acoustic open mike w/ John Porazinski

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub: bluegrass jam w/ JT

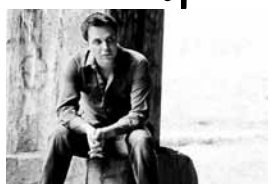
Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: DJ
Gaslight Co.: L3V3L
Jitto's Supersteak: music and spoken word open mike w/ Elijah Clark
The Page: karaoke
Press Room: Seasmoke
Red Door: Matt Dimond & Nick Snortchez
Rudi's: Jarrod Steer

Raymond
Yankee Market Pub: karaoke

Seabrook
Prime Time: karaoke

Windham
Jonathon's: karaoke

In the spotlight



Nick Young

Alt-Americana singer-songwriter Nick Young will take the stage at Boynton's Taproom, 155 Dow St., Manchester, on Friday, May 6, at 10 p.m. Before going solo, Young served as front man and principal songwriter for Burning Daylight for several years. The Rochester, N.Y., native spent the last year recording his debut solo album, *Truth Is*, a collection of 13 Americana songs, in Nashville. The album was released in November 2010. Tickets are $7 at the door.

In the spotlight

Country rock

Country rocker Jason Aldean will stop at the Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester, on Thursday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m., as part of his "My Kinda Party" tour. Eric Church and The JaneDear Girls will open. Nominated for two American Music Awards in 2010, Aldean was also honored as one of Country Music Television's Artists of the Year. Church's latest album, *Carolina*, produced two Top 10 singles, including "Smoke a Little Smoke." Tickets cost $39.75 and $59.75 at 800-745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

Friday, April 29

Amherst
Souhegan Christian Church: open mike w/ Music at the Ledge

Bedford
Slammers: all star jam w/Barr None

Belmont
Top of the Town: Joe Holiday

Boscawen
Alan's: Matt Tellier

Concord
Beijing & Tokyo: karaoke w/ DJ Tom
Makris: Southern Breeze
Pit Road Lounge: Phoenix
Red Blazer: Chafed
Tandy's: DJ

Dover
Barley Pub: Chris Fitz
Brick House: Dover, Sly-Chi
Kelley's Row: Fling
RJ's: DJ Big Pez

Epping
Holy Grail: Jon Ayer

Exeter
Shooter's: DJ BiggZ & "D"

Gilford
Patrick's: George Lodge & Jim Hollis

Goffstown
Village Trestle: acoustic jam w/ John Erlman

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: No Big Secret
Village Square: Baked Naked

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Leaving Eden

Kingston
1686 House Tavern: Mike Belkas

Laconia
Fratello's: Paul Warnick
Paradise Beach Club: DJ

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Joe McDonald
Whippersnappers: Hypercane

Manchester
American Legion: karaoke
Black Brimmer: Last Laugh
Cactus Jack's: Steve O
Club 313: DJ Bob, DJ Dave G, karaoke w/ CJ
Derryfield: Nimbus 9
Element: karaoke
Fratello's: Marc Apostolides
Jam Factory: Blacklight Ruckus, Santiago and Dunbar, Zanois, Dixen Cider, Chris Peters
Johnny Bad's: karaoke w/ DJ Rokkstar
Milly's: DJ Clashious Clay
Mulligan's: karaoke
Murphy's: Eric Grant Band
Shaskeen: Scalawag
Strange Brew: Rhythm Method

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois

Merrimack
The Homestead: Sev

Milford
Pasta Loft: Groove Authority

Nashua
Amsterdam: DJ
Fody's: Scott Barnett Band
Gate City Pub: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D
Martha's Exchange: DJ Spivak
Peddler's Daughter: Swinging Johnsons
Stella Blu: The Gentleman Outfit
Studio 99: Matt Jackson, Ria

New Boston
Gravity Tavern: Hot Mustard

Newmarket
Stone Church: Roots of Creation, Blue Boy Productions

Newton
Hen House: DJ

Plaistow
The Dugout: DJ Boo

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Liz Frame and the Kickers
Dolphin Striker: Ari & Mia Friedman
Gas Light Co.: Tony Santesse, Aaron Denny, DJ Koko P
Hilton Garden Inn: Curt Bessette and Kathleen Soldari
The Page: DJ
Press Room: Truffle
Red Door: The Orient Express
Rudi's: Nick Mainella

Salem
Black Water Grill: Rob Breton
Jocelyn's: DJ

Seabrook
Honey Pot: DJ

Windham
Jonathon's: karaoke

Saturday, April 30

Bedford
Slammers: Common Knowledge

Belmont
Top of the Town: Joe Holiday

Boscawen
Alan's: Gardner Berry

Concord
Barley House: karaoke
Beijing & Tokyo: karaoke
Hermanos: Melissa Blasek
Red Blazer: The Tony O Band
Tandy's: DJ

Dover
Barley Pub: Jabe
Brick House: Comma, Post Lost, Radiant Flow Control, Vaast, Vessel
Kelley's Row: Gazpacho
RJ's: DJ

Epping
Holy Grail: Twocastors

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch: Craig Kendall & The Northwood Playboys

Exeter
Shooter's: Before the Crash

Gilford
Patrick's: Costley & Luff

Gofftsown
New Wa Toy: karaoke

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Two by Two
Village Square: Cause for Alarm

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Ten and Out

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Julie Dougherty
Whippersnappers: Baked Naked

Manchester
American Legion: karaoke
Black Brimmer: Fighting Friday
Club 313: DJ Bob, karaoke w/ CJ
Derryfield: Friday Addiction
Fratello's: Marc Apostolides
Murphy's: Conniption Fits
Penchue's: First Shot
Shaskeen: Irish sessions w/ Roger Burridge, The Fiends
Strange Brew: Paramounts

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On the scene

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Do you have an upcoming show? Make sure that even if the venue doesn't let us know, it gets listed in the Music This Week by sending us updates of your upcoming gigs. Send locations, dates and times for your upcoming shows to music@hippopress.com. Send information by noon on Monday to get listed for the coming week. Or send us links to your regularly updated website or MySpace page.

... or you, with a club...

Does your bar/restaurant/coffeeshop frequently host musical performances? Send the information to music@hippopress.com along with your address and phone number so we can get you into the Music This Week. And if *you* regularly update your website or MySpace page, you can send us those links as well. Get the information in by noon on Monday to make the coming Thursday's paper.

... and if you are a music fan...

If you're out on the scene and see a show at a location not regularly listed in the Music This Week, let us know at music@hippopress.com. Our goal is to give you the most complete live music listings in the region each and every week.

Wild Rover: Red Sky Mary
The Yard: Country Felix

Mason
Mason Congregational Church: open mike w/ Mike Damery

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Tom Yoder, Rainy Tuesday Band

Merrimack
The Homestead: Joe McDonald

Milford
Pasta Loft: Loose Grip

Nashua
Dragon's Lounge: karaoke
Fody's: Raising Scarlet
Martha's Exchange: DJ
Milano's Sports Bar: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D
Stella Blu: Rampage Trio
Studio 99: Honey Ear Trio

New Boston
Gravity Tavern: Russell Hill

Newmarket
Stone Church: Roots Nation

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Sand Machine
Gas Light Co.: Gary Lopez, Ben Kilcollins, DJ JW
The Page: DJ
Press Room: jazz lunch w/ Larry Garland, Almanac Mountain, Winterstar, Chris Summer
Red Door: Paul Dailey, Dan Spurling
Rudi's: Robert Gerry

Salem
Jocelyn's: Kevin Elliott

Windham
Jonathon's: karaoke

In the spotlight

Third Eye Blind

Third Eye Blind will take the stage at the Hampton Casino Ballroom, 109 Ocean Boulevard, Hampton Beach, on Friday, April 29, at 8 p.m. Since 1997, the San Francisco-based group, led by Stephan Jenkins, has recorded three best-selling albums and a handful of chart-topping hits including "Semi-Charmed Life" and "How's It Going To Be?" The group released its latest album, *Ursa Minor*, in fall 2009. Tickets cost $31 in advance at www.casinoballroom.com or 929-4100 and $33 at the door.

In the spotlight

Mugshot

Mugshot, who first came onto the Granite State music scene in September 2008 as Fate 908, will perform at the Black Brimmer, 1087 Elm St., Manchester, on Thursday, April 28. The four-member hard rock/dance rock cover band, whose members are Patrick Crozier, Brien Sweet, Jim Zsofka and Jon Chartier, performs exclusively in southern New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. Band members have previously been involved with such local bands as Blackacre, Bad Habit, Safer by the Shore and The Brien Sweet Project.

Sunday, May 1

Concord
Penuche's: open mike w/ Steve Naylor
Tandy's: karaoke w/ DJ Mark and Kerri

Dover
Brick House: karaoke w/ Erich Kruger, Cold Words, Cutthroat, The Confrontation, The Nasty Trials
Jimmy's: open mike w/ Denis Patrick & The Gene Sibley Group
RJ's: DJ
Station House: karaoke

Goffstown
Village Trestle: blues jam

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Before the Crash

Kingston
Rick's: blues and rock open mike w/ Bobby Freedom

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: Tim Cannon

Manchester
900 Degrees: blues open mike night w/ Tom Ballerini
Cactus Jack's: Sonic Boomers
Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh
Element: karaoke w/ DJ Sharon
Johnny Bad's: blues jam w/ The Deep Pockets
Mulligan's: karaoke
Shaskeen: sing-along w/ the Spain Brothers
Strange Brew: Tom Keller and John Medeiros

Meredith
Giuseppe's: open mike w/ Lou Porrazzo

Nashua
Milano's Sports Bar: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D

Newmarket
Stone Church: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: open mike
Daniel Street Tavern: karaoke
Red Door: Green Lion Crew
Rudi's: jazz brunch w/ Lex and Joe

Stratham
Acoustic Outfitters: acoustic open mike w/ Ellen Carlson

In the spotlight

No repeats

JamAntics, known for their funky rock jams, will perform at Red River Theatres, 11 S. Main St., Concord, on Thursday, April 28, at 6 p.m. JamAntics stepped into the New England music scene in 2009 and has shared the stage with such bands as Roots of Creation and Barefoot Truth. The five members — Masceo, Eric Reingold, Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki, Lucas Gallo and Freeland Hubbard — come from varied musical backgrounds and have never played the same way twice. The band is currently working on its debut studio album. Tickets cost $10 at 224-4697 or redrivertheatres.org ($9 for ages 11 to 18, $3 for ages 10 and under).

Monday, May 2

Candia
Henderson's: electric rock open mike

Concord
Red Blazer: Matt Langley

Dover
Orchard Street Chop Shop: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Hampton
La Bec Rouge: open mike w/ Elijah Clark
Wally's Pub: DJ

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: open mike w/ Gardner Berry

Manchester
Fratello's: Sev
Milly's: Dom and Reid of Manchuka
Mulligan's: live band karaoke

Meredith
Camp: acoustic open mike w/ Linden Mazurka
Giuseppe's: Lou Porrazzo

Merrimack
Homestead: Joe McDonald

Milford
J's Tavern: acoustic open mike

Nashua
Fody's: DJ Mark Allen

Seabrook
Honey Pot: karaoke

Windham
Jonathon's: karaoke

Tuesday, May 3

Bedford
Slammer's: karaoke w/ DJ Robyn

Concord
Barley House: Irish sessions

Dover
Brick House: acoustic open mike w/ Anthony Vito Fiandaca
RJ's: DJ

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: acoustic open mike w/ Mike Belkas

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: video DJ

Manchester
900 Degrees: acoustic music
Black Brimmer: DJ Chad
Element: karaoke w/ DJ Sharon
Fratello's: Lachlan McLearn
Milly's: Manchuka
Murphy's: open mike w/ Josh Logan, Nate Comp and Paul Costley
Strange Brew: Strange Brew all stars

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois

Merrimack
Homestead: Gary Lopez

Milford
J's Tavern: G Man from Mama Kicks
Pasta Loft: karaoke

Nashua
Fody's: karaoke w/ Mark Allen
Killarney's Pub: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D

Portsmouth
Press Room: jazz jam w/ Larry Garland
Red Door: PB Kidd

Seabrook
Honey Pot: open mike

Windham
Jonathon's: karaoke

Wednesday, May 4

Antrim
Redneck's: open mike w/ the Boogiemen

Auburn
Holiday's: karaoke w/ DJ Captain Chris

Boscawen
Alan's: open mike

Concord
Green Martini: open mike w/ Steve Naylor
Tandy's: karaoke, DJ

Dover
Fury's: open mike w/ Paul Chase
Three Chimney's Inn: open mike

Hampton
Wally's Pub: live karaoke w/ Baked Naked

Hudson
Johnny's: karaoke w/ Tony Zzz
Linda's: karaoke w/ DJ Erin D

Kingston
Carriage Towne Bar & Grille: Mike Belkas

Manchester
Fratello's: Tim Cannon
Strange Brew: Sev

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Don Bergeron

Merrimack
Homestead: Tony Santesse

Milford
J's Tavern: Lisa from Mama Kicks
Olde Kilkenny Pub: Driven
Pasta Loft: open mike

Nashua
603 Lounge: open mike w/ Kevin Horan
Dragon's Lounge: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D
Fody's: DJ Outlet
Peddler's Daughter: Revels Glen
Sausage King: open mike w/ John Borlaug
Studio 99: jazz jam

Newmarket
Stone Church: Animatronique

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub: open mike

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: open mike w/ Tom Brown and Duke Mandell
Red Door: Red on Red w/ Evaredy
Rudi's: Dimitri

Seabrook
Chop Shop: karaoke w/ Matty R
Honey Pot: karaoke

Windham
Jonathon's: karaoke

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, April 28

Nashua
Fody's Tavern: Nick Lavallee, Cory J. Turner and Alana Susko (Hippo readers' picks for Best Local Comedian, runner up and honorable mention) will perform from 8 to 10 p.m.

Friday, April 29

Manchester
Boynton's: Steve Bjork, Rich Gustus and Ellen Moschetto

Portsmouth
Sheraton: Live Free or Die Laughing w/ Rob Steen

Saturday, April 30

Franklin
The Middle: Juston McKinney

Nashua
Margaritas: Live Free or Die Laughing w/ Joe Yannetty

Monday, May 2

Concord
Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, May 3

Manchester
Murphy's: live standup

Wednesday, May 4

Manchester
Jam Factory: The Comedy Machine
Shaskeen: open mike

Nashua
Penuche's: live standup

Friday, May 6

Manchester
Boynton's: Stephanie Peters, Tom Dustin and Andy Lester

Monday, May 9

Concord
Penuche's: live standup

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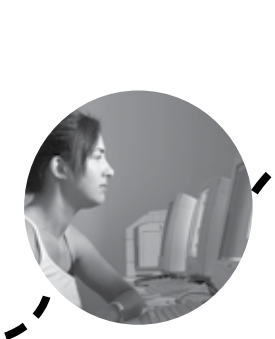

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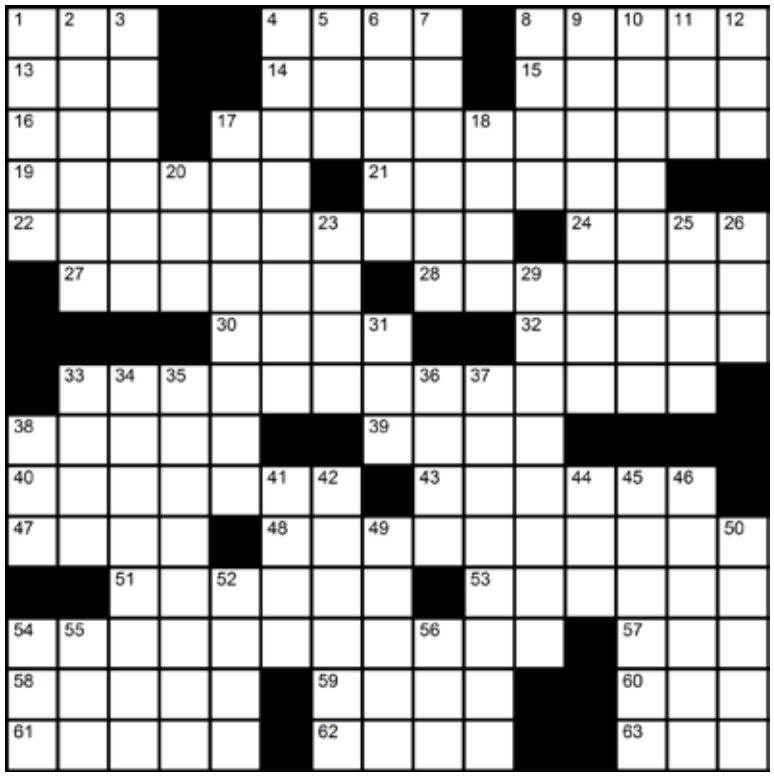
"Return Trip" — that's gonna hurt. By Matt Jones

Across

1 3.14 or 4.00
4 Part of > or <
8 Turnout participant
13 Color on the flags of France and Italy
14 "Does ___ It" (song by Trey Songz)
15 Radiations of light
16 "___ Iron Man..."
17 Part 1 of a definition
19 Writing at the end of a work
21 Playwright David and family
22 Part 2 of the definition
24 "I Ain't Marching Any More" folkie Phil
27 Rule from a dictator
28 Get embarrassed over
30 D.C. team
32 Sam of "Jurassic Park"
33 Part 3 of the definition
38 Preceding
39 Old-school soda
40 Singer Etheridge
43 Language heard in Katmandu
47 Pizzeria in "Do the Right Thing"
48 Part 4 of the definition
51 Pilot
53 ___ Online (long-running MMORPG)
54 Word defined by the definition
57 China's Three Gorges ___
58 Soft drink that started out as "Brad's Drink"
59 Ann Arbor campus, for short
60 Certain Colorado native
61 Doesn't come for free
62 Fix kitty
63 ___ capita income



Down

1 "Good ___!"
2 Stir fry ingredient
3 Look up to
4 Alexander's sobriquet
5 Punk band (___) p.e.
6 Stop on ___
7 Like some diets
8 Area between hills
9 Away from the coast
10 Highly fashionable
11 Swabbed spot
12 "Collapse into Now" band
17 Funeral attendees
18 ___ nitrite (inhalant)
20 Non-profit type (hidden in FOOLSCAP)
23 The ___ Boys (Houston rappers)
25 "Hey you! Stop!"
26 Cardinals insignia
29 In a not-ready-to-pick manner
31 Capitol Hill figure: abbr.
33 "The Sopranos" actress de Matteo
34 Lights with wicks
35 Least likely to let you sleep
36 Strange introduction?
37 1999 Brendan Fraser movie
38 Monthly hassle
41 Word repeated alongside "old"
42 Tool that's counter-productive?
44 Aesthete's love
45 Down (with), as a bad illness
46 Pen dweller
49 Winning
50 Call of Duty or World of Warcraft enthusiast
52 Diamond stats
54 Palindromic Chinese political party
55 Palindromic "War on Poverty" agency
56 "Son ___ gun!"

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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from songs by Lily Allen, born May 2, 1985.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *"Riding through the city on my bike all day / Cause the filth took away my licence / It doesn't get me down and I feel ok / Cause the sights that I'm seeing are priceless" —"LDN"* Try to live in the moment and enjoy your surroundings.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *"I look into your eyes I want to get to know you / And then you make this noise and its apparent it's all over" —"Not Fair"* Don't get too invested too fast.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *"It's sad but it's true how society says / Her life is already over / There's nothing to do and there's nothing to say / Til the man of her dreams comes along picks her up and puts her over his shoulder / It seems so unlikely in this day and age" —"22"* Be your own person, whether you're the something of someone's dreams or not.

Leo (July 23 – Aug 22) *"I don't know who you think you are, / But making people scared wont get you very far." —"Friday Night"* Resist the urge to intimidate others.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *"When you first left me I didn't know what to say / I never been on my own that way, just sat by myself all day // I was so lost back then / But with a little help from my friends / I found a light in the tunnel at the end / Now you're calling me up on the phone / So you can have a little whine and a moan / And it's only because you're feeling alone" —"Smile"* Tables will be turned, things will feel different. Don't succumb to vengefulness, but do invest yourself in true friends, not abusive ones.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *"When she was 22 the future looked bright / But she's nearly 30 now and she's out every night / I see that look in her face she's got that look in her eye / She's thinking how did I get here and wondering why" —"22"* Rather than wondering why and how you got here, focus on where you'll go from here.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) *"What happened to the good old days? / I was hoping this was just a stupid phase" —"Friend of Mine"* Your current situation may or may not be a phase. It's up to you.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) *"I could say that I'll always have feelings for you / But I've got a life ahead of me and I'm only 22" —"I Could Say"* Don't make long-term commitments you can't keep. And don't fall for others' promises they can't keep.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan 19) *"I'll always pull you up on every stupid thing that you say / But I found it so entertaining / Messing around with your head" —"Back to the Start"* It's not nice to mess with other people's heads.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *"When we were growing up you always looked like you were having such fun / You always were and you always will be the taller and the prettier one / People seem to love you / They gravitate towards you / That's why I started to hate you so much / And I just completely ignored you" —"Back to the Start"* Someone's comparing themselves to you and feeling lesser. What looks like arrogance may just be insecurity.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *"I want to be rich and I want lots of money / I don't care about clever I don't care about funny / I want loads of clothes and f***loads of diamonds / I heard people die while they are trying to find them" —"The Fear"* Try to resist the pull of materialism. A little could be fine, but watch out you don't go overboard.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *"Say what you say, / Do what you do / Feel what you feel, / As long as it's real. / I said take what you take / And give what you give / Just be what you want, / Just as long as it's real." —"Take what you Take"* Be real and demand realness from those around you.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	3		4	9		2	6	
7					1			4
2								
	9							1
4								8
1							7	
								9
3			2					5
	8	2		3	5		1	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/28

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SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. *Last week's puzzle answers are below*

4/21

9	1	5	8	6	2	4	7	3
4	8	3	7	5	1	2	9	6
2	6	7	4	3	9	8	1	5
1	5	9	3	2	8	6	4	7
3	4	2	9	7	6	1	5	8
6	7	8	5	1	4	3	2	9
8	2	4	6	9	7	5	3	1
5	9	1	2	8	3	7	6	4
7	3	6	1	4	5	9	8	2

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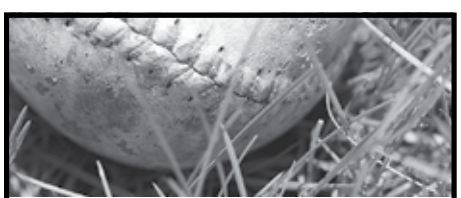

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Possible Overkill

A tank and several armored vehicles with dozens of SWAT officers and a bomb robot rolled into a generally quiet Phoenix neighborhood on March 21, startling the residents. Knocking down a wall, deputies raided the home of Jesus Llovera, who was "suspected" of running a cockfighting business, and, indeed, 115 chickens were found inside, but Llovera was alone and unarmed, and his only previous connection to cockfights was a misdemeanor conviction in 2010 for attending one. "We're going to err on the side of caution," said Sgt. Jesse Spurgin. Adding to neighbors' amazement was the almost-fanciful sight — riding in the tank — of actor Steven Seagal, who had brought his "Lawman" reality TV show to Phoenix.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit

• Product Giveaways: (1) New sign-ups for higher-end Dish satellite TV systems at the Radio Shack in Hamilton, Mont., also receive free Hi-Point .380 pistols or 20-gauge shotguns (after passing a background check, paid for by the store). The owner said his business has tripled since introducing the premium in October. (2) Bobblehead dolls may be popular baseball giveaways, but as part of the local "Green Sports Alliance" demonstrating concern for the environment, the Seattle Mariners announced in March that for several games this season, fans would get free bags of compost (made from food and other items discarded at Mariners games).

• It started as a class project at Brown University, but after a launch party on March 19 (and a sold-out first run of 500), Julie Sygiel's Sexy Period menstrual-leak-fighting panties are on sale ($32 to $44, depending on the style —"cheeky," "hipster" or "bikini"). Sygiel said "sexy" is less to suggest sensuality than to help women cope with the time of the month when they feel "not at (their) best. We want to banish that moment."

• A Chinese Capitalist's Learning Curve: In the early hours of the destruction at Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant in March, rumors abounded that millions of people might need iodine products to fight off radiation. A restaurateur named Guo in Wuhan, China, seeing the price of iodized table salt rise dramatically, cleverly cornered a market with 4 1/2 tons of it, trucked to his home, where it filled half the rooms. According to a March 25 China Daily report, the price has returned to pre-Fukushima levels — much less than what Guo paid, and he can neither return the salt (lacking documentation) nor sell nor transport it (lacking the proper licenses).

Weird Science

• From a March Discovery.com report: "Forty million years ago, a female mite met an attractive partner, grabbed him with her clingy rear end, and began to mate — just before a blob of tree resin fell on the couple, preserving the moment for eternity." The resin-encrusted mites were discovered recently by researchers from the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (who noted that, in those days, the female dominated mating, but that evolution has reversed that role).

• Medical Marvels: (1) Supatra Sasuphan, 11, of Bangkok, was recently noted as the world's hairiest girl by the Guinness Book of World Records for her wolf-like facial hair as one of only 50 people in history to be recorded with hypertrichosis. Though she has of course been teased and taunted at school, she told a reporter in February that the Guinness Book recognition has actually increased her popularity at Ratchabophit school. (2) According to a team of University of Montreal psychologists, a 23-year-old man, "Mathieu," is the first documented case of a person wholly unable to feel a musical beat or to move in time with it. The scientists report for an upcoming journal article that Mathieu sings in tune but merely flails with his body, bouncing up and down much more randomly than do people who are merely poor dancers.

• From the September 2010 issue of the journal Endoscopy, reported by three physicians at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia: A 52-year-old woman undergoing a routine colonoscopy was shown on the screen to have a cockroach in her traverse colon. A literature review revealed no previous cases of cockroaches (but, e.g., ants, wasps, bees). Though the cockroach was not welcome, the doctors acknowledged that in some other countries, they are delicacies.

• Scientists Just Wanna Have Fun: A team of whimsical researchers at the University of Osaka (Japan) Graduate School of "Frontier Biosciences" has produced a strain of mice prone to "miscopying" DNA — making them susceptible to developing sometimes-unexpected mutations, such as their recently born mouse that tweets like a bird. Lead researcher Arikuni Uchimura told London's Daily Mail that he had expected to produce, instead, a mouse with an odd shape, but the "singing mouse" emerged. Previously, the team produced a mouse with dachshund-like short limbs.

Leading Economic Indicators

• People With Too Much Money: (1) During New York City's Fashion Week in February, "fanny packs" made a comeback (though certainly not under that name), according to a Wall Street Journal report, ranging in price from a $325 Diane von Furstenberg to an Hermes "Kelly Bandeau" model, expected to sell for $4,675. (2) An unidentified "coal baron" in northern China purchased an 11-month-old, 180-pound red Tibetan mastiff recently from a breeder in Qingdao for the equivalent of about $1.52 million. "The price is justified," said breeder Lu Liang. "We have spent a lot of money raising this dog, and we have the salaries of plenty of staff to pay."

• What Federal Cutbacks? In March, DailyCaller.com, combing federal government job announcements, found more than 1,000 in Washington, D.C., including a Facebook manager for the Interior Department ($115,000 annually), a student internship at the Housing Finance Agency ($48,000) (the same salary as being offered by the Pentagon for mailroom clerks), and managers of equal-opportunity employment programs at the Peace Corps ($155,000) and the Transportation Department (almost $180,000).

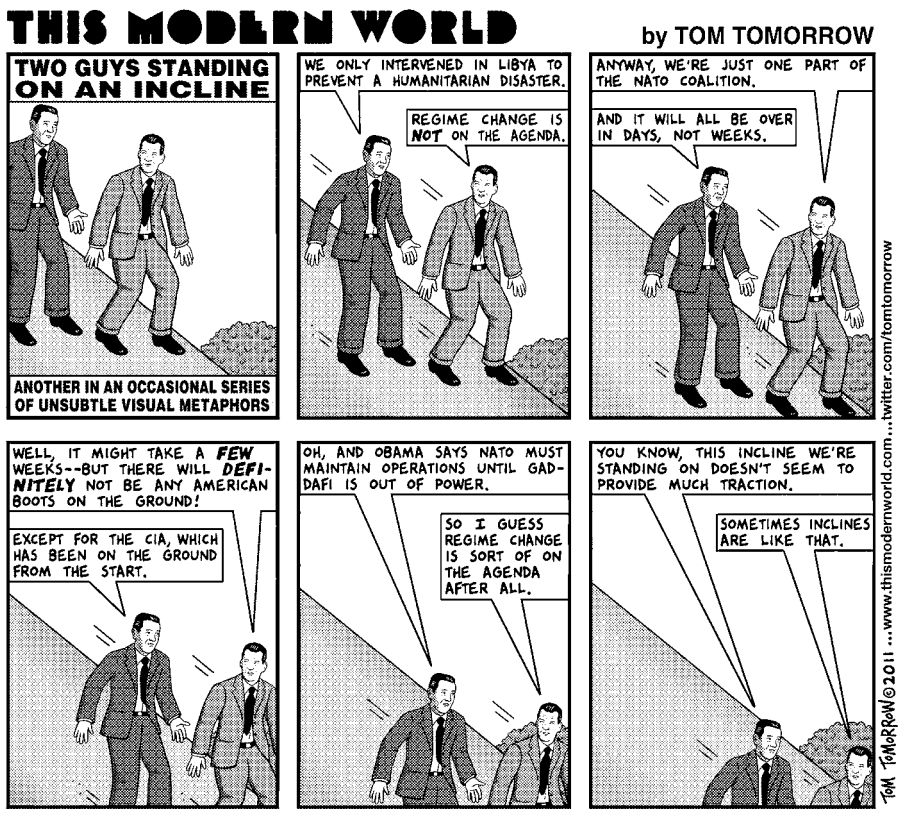
Smooth Reactions

A suspicious wife (who lives apart from her husband because of work requirements) flew to the couple's principal home in Wilmette, Ill., on March 4 and, finding her husband's new girlfriend's clothes hanging in their closet, scissored out the crotch area of all her pants, doing about $2,000 in damage, and leaving the remnants in the driveway before returning to her East Coast home. According to police, neither the husband nor the girlfriend chose to file complaints, and the case is closed.

Least Competent Criminals

Clever, But Didn't Think It All the Way Through: Daryl Davis, 30, was arrested in Springfield, Pa., in March and charged with stealing a pickup truck off of a dealer's lot. According to police, Davis had carefully forged an owner's credential for the truck at another dealership and obtained a "duplicate" key, allowing him to drive the truck off the second dealer's lot. However, when he made the original bogus credential, he had used his own name and photograph and was easily tracked down.

Are you ready for News of the Weird Pro Edition? Every Monday at NewsoftheWeird.blogspot.com and www.WeirdUniverse.net. Other handy addresses: WeirdNews@earthlink.net, www.NewsoftheWeird.com, and P.O. Box 18737, Tampa FL 33679.



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